



Israel-Hamas War

October 7, 2024 - May 3, 2024

210 Day Update



About the Council for a Secure America

The cornerstones of American national security are: a strong military, a vibrant economy, enduring alliances, and American ingenuity. The Council for Secure America was founded on the premise that American energy independence, in all of its forms, is the underpinning for U.S. security.

For decades, American foreign policy was forced to make concessions to foreign nations who fueled its economy. In 2019, thanks to the innovation of American energy producers, the United States achieved energy independence. This accomplishment made America the leading energy producer in the world, fortifying its national security and buttressing geo-political stability in the Middle East.

Amongst America's many allies, the US-Israel partnership is a strategic, long-lasting and ongoing bilateral alliance. Energy independence has only strengthened it.

CSA educates key audiences on the importance of domestic energy production and technologies to American and Israeli mutual national security interests.

Moreover, American energy statecraft has reshuffled the geopolitical landscape and sowed the seeds of peace in the Middle East, enabling old adversaries to become allies. In 2020, the United States brokered the Abraham Accords—promoting unprecedented normalization and multilateral ties between its closest ally, Israel, and Arab States including the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Sudan, and the Kingdom of Morocco.

CSA champions the ideals of the Abraham Accords and their critical impact on geopolitical security and global trade. CSA is advancing these partnerships and is committed to bringing multi-faceted awareness to complex and evolving challenges.



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Recommendations for the US: Maintain, Enforce, Support

■ **Maintain**

- American military force posture in the Middle East
- American energy independence
- International freedom of navigation through the Red Sea

■ **Enforce**

- All existing sanctions against Iran

■ **Support**

- Israel's right to defend itself
- Efforts to release all hostages
- Humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza



Report Prepared from a Variety of Media, Government, and Expert Sources and Are Hyperlinked Throughout

- ABC
- ADL
- Air & Space Forces Magazine
- Al Jazeera
- Al Mayadeen
- Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
- Al Monitor
- The America Times
- AP
- Arab World for Research & Development
- Axios
- BBC
- The Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University
- The Brookings Institution
- Business Insider
- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- CBS
- Center for American Progress
- Center for Strategic & International Studies
- Channel 12 Israel News
- CIA
- CNN
- Congressional Research Service
- Council on Foreign Relations
- The Economist
- Energy Council
- European Jewish Press
- Financial Times
- FOX News
- Foreign Policy Research Institute
- France 24
- GazaNow
- Haaretz
- HAMAS Ministry of Health
- The Guardian
- Institute for National Security Studies
- Iran International
- Israel Defense Forces
- Israel Hayom
- Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Jerusalem Post
- The Jewish Chronicle
- KidnappedFromIsrael.com
- Los Angeles County District Attorney
- Levent Kemal
- Middle East Policy Council
- Middle East Research Institute
- NBC
- New Yorker
- The New York Post
- The New York Times
- NPR
- Oregon Public Broadcasting
- Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research
- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
- PBS
- Political Handbook of the World 2014
- Politico
- Reuters
- SKY News
- The Telegraph
- Times of Israel
- Trading Economics
- United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- USAID
- US Central Command
- US Department of Defense
- US Energy Information Administration
- US Navy
- US State Department
- US Treasury Department
- US White House
- USA TODAY
- United States Institute of Peace
- The Wall Street Journal
- The Washington Institute for Near East Policy
- The Washington Post
- TIME
- West Point Modern War Institute
- Yale School of Management
- Ynet News



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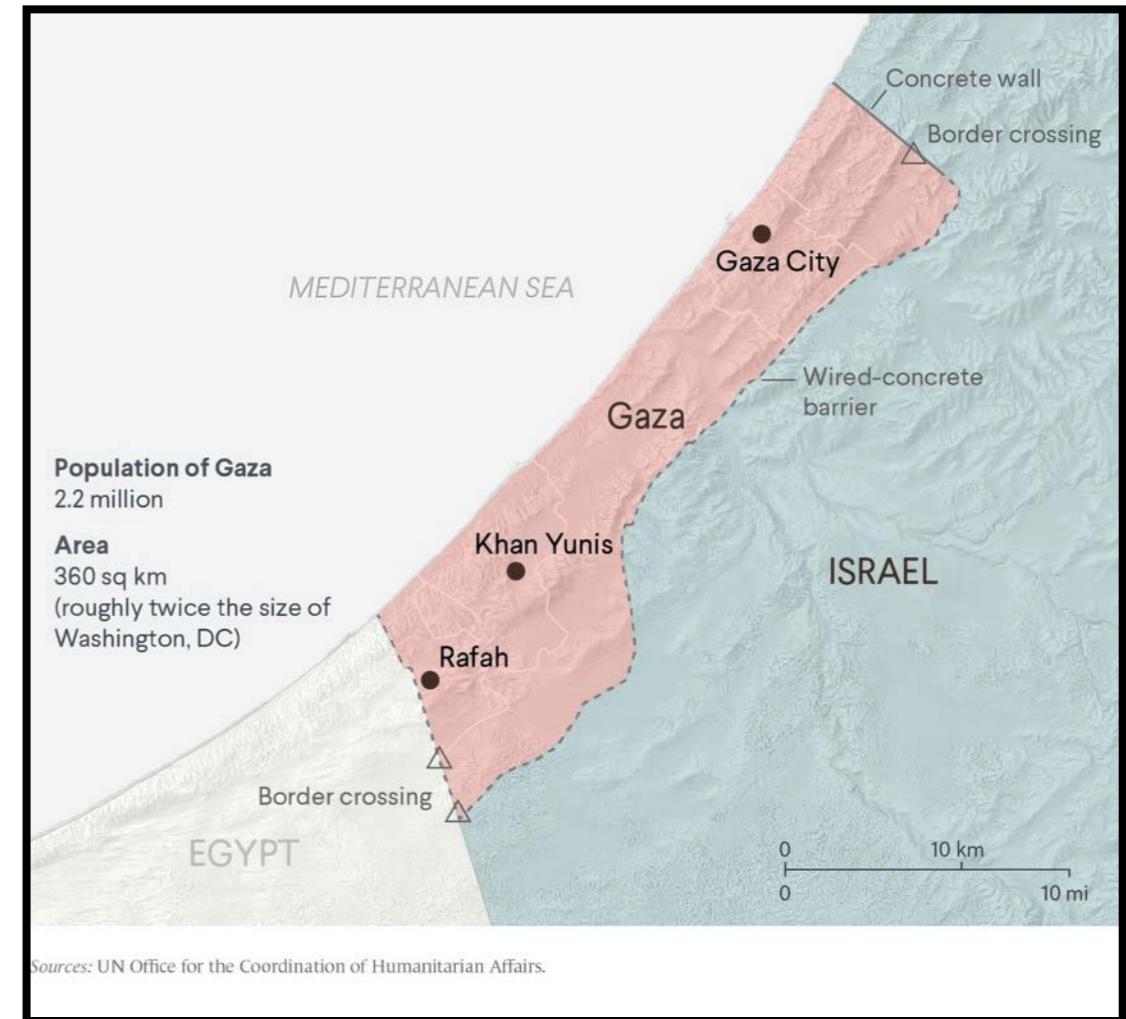
Understanding Gaza & HAMAS



Gaza, population 2.2M, is 25 miles long and 6 miles wide



Gaza's borders:
West borders **Mediterranean Sea**
East, North borders **Israel**
South borders **Egypt**



Historical Control of Gaza

- **Prior to 1500s:**

Egyptian Pharaohs, Babylonians, Philistines, Alexander the Great, Romans, Mongols, Crusaders and Napoleon

- **1500s-1917:**

Ottoman Empire

- **1917 - 1948:**

United Kingdom (referred to as British Mandate)

- **1948-1967:**

Egypt controls Gaza, the State of Israel established next to Gaza

- **1967-2005:**

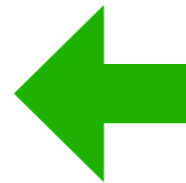
Six Day War leads to Israeli control over Gaza, although Israel withdrew from most of Gaza in 1994 as a result of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement (a treaty of the Oslo Accords)

- **2006-2007:**

Full Palestinian Authority control over Gaza after Israel withdraws from the entirety of Gaza

- **2007-2023:**

HAMAS rules Gaza, next to the State of Israel



Generation HAMAS: if you're 21 years or younger in Gaza, you don't remember life before HAMAS



Gaza - Top Sources of Funding

Palestinian Authority



~\$1.7 billion annually

Qatar



~\$1.3 billion total 2012-2021

UN Agencies



~\$4.5 billion total 2014-2020

Jihad is Cornerstone of HAMAS' Founding Charter

Death to Jews

"The Day of Judgment will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him."

(Article 7)

Solution is Jihad, Not Peace

"[Peace] initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement... Those conferences are no more than a means to appoint the infidels as arbitrators in the lands of Islam... **There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad.** Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are but a waste of time, an exercise in futility."

(Article 13)



HAMAS (Arabic acronym for *Islamic Resistance Movement*)

- Formed in 1987 during the first Palestinian Intifada as a rival to Arafat's secular FATAH party (now lead by PA President Mahmoud Abbas)
- **Sunni Islamist group, founded as an armed Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood**
- Hybrid terrorist organization and totalitarian government
- **Designated by the US, EU, UK, Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, and Paraguay as a terrorist organization because it prepares, plans, and commits acts of terror.**



The Iranian Terror Connection



Iran Supports Armed Islamic Groups Attacking Israel



Islamic Republic of Iran



Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)



Hezbollah
(Lebanon)

Shia



HAMAS
(Gaza/West Bank)

Sunni



Palestinian Islamic Jihad
(Gaza/West Bank)

Sunni



Houthis
(Yemen)

Shia



Kataib Hezbollah
(Iraq)

Shia



US Dept. Treasury Nov. 14 2023

“Iranian support, primarily through its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has enabled Hamas’s and PIJ’s terrorist activities, to include the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars in financial assistance and the furnishing of both weapons and operational training.”



In HAMAS's words: Iran Funds HAMAS Military

Iran had significantly increased funding for Hamas' military wing in the past year from \$100 million annually to about \$350 million a year.



HAMAS Deputy Chairman Saleh Al Arouri, in an interview with Lebanese TV on 12/30/17:

"Iran is the most [hostile] country in the world toward the Zionist entity. Iran is the only country that says that this entity is cancerous, and should be uprooted from the region. This is Iran's official position and it is willing to provide real and public support to the Palestinian and other resistance movements fighting that entity...**nobody but Iran gives us any military support...** The Iranians provide aid to the Palestinian resistance... To the people who question Iran's confrontation with Israel, I say: Who supported the resistance in Lebanon until it drove out the Israeli entity? It was Iran. Who supports the resistance in Gaza and Palestine? Iran. It is Iran and Hizbollah that confront that entity along with us."

In Iran's words: Iran Funds HAMAS Military

Iranian official Mohammad Mehdi Shariatmadar said on a January 26, 2024 interview on Saudi TV:



"All the bullets, all the rockets, and all the UAVs that are fired or launched against the Israeli entity anywhere - where in south Lebanon - in Palestine, or anywhere - are either made in Iran or the product of Iranian training. All the weapons. You cannot see anyone [else] in the world who gave a single bullet to the Palestinian resistance movements against the Israeli entity.

In White House's words: Iran Funds HAMAS Military



December 15, 2023 Statement by US Under Secretary of Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence

"HAMAS receives significant financial support from Iran and generates revenue through its **secret investment portfolios**, with a network of global assets estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The **portfolio includes companies operating in Sudan, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, and Türkiye**, among others. The companies in HAMAS's portfolio have operated under the guise of legitimate businesses, and their representatives have attempted to conceal Hamas's control over their assets. To launder and move their illicit proceeds, **the group operates a vast network of shell companies** and take advantage of permissive jurisdictions and facilitation hubs to move these funds. **They also smuggle physical currency and use a regional network of money transmitters, exchange houses, and a longtime US-designated, Hizballah-affiliated bank, Bayt Al-Mal, to move funds from Iran into Gaza."**



Iran Remains Committed to HAMAS Militarily

March 29, 2024



Mohammad Bagheri, the Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces (left) and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh (right) in Tehran on March 29, 2024

Iran's top military commander vowed unyielding support for the Palestinian cause, declaring Tehran's commitment to back it "with all its might." Mohammad Bagheri, Iran's Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, conveyed admiration to HAMAS' leader Ismail Haniyeh and described HAMAS' October 7 attack on Israel as "unprecedented, exceptional, and highly successful."

The IRGC-HAMAS Meeting on October 2, 2023

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“Iranian security officials helped plan HAMAS’s Saturday surprise attack on Israel and gave the green light for the assault at a meeting in Beirut last Monday [October 2, 2023], according to senior members of Hamas and Hezbollah... Officers of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had worked with Hamas since August to devise the air, land and sea incursions”



Source of Iranian Terror Funding: Iranian Oil Revenues

Yale School of Management analysis:

- **“Iranian oil is a small fraction of Middle East oil production**—only around 12.5%, nearly 4 times smaller than the largest producer, Saudi Arabia.” For context, the US produces approximately 21% of oil in the world, compared to Iran’s 4%.
- **“Oil sales are a critical choke point for Iran,** with oil exports representing up to 70% of Iranian government revenues by some estimates.”
- “Iran is riding high right now thanks to the fact Iran is on pace for near-record oil production this year, with production doubling from less than 2 million barrels per day in 2019 to 3.5 million barrels per day now. This represents **an over \$40 billion increase in revenues**”
- Choking Iranian oil production would “reduce the funds Iran has available to fund its terrorist proxies.”

Politico: **“China buys about 90% of Iran’s oil, including crude sold by the Quds Force, the paramilitary arm of the IRGC”**



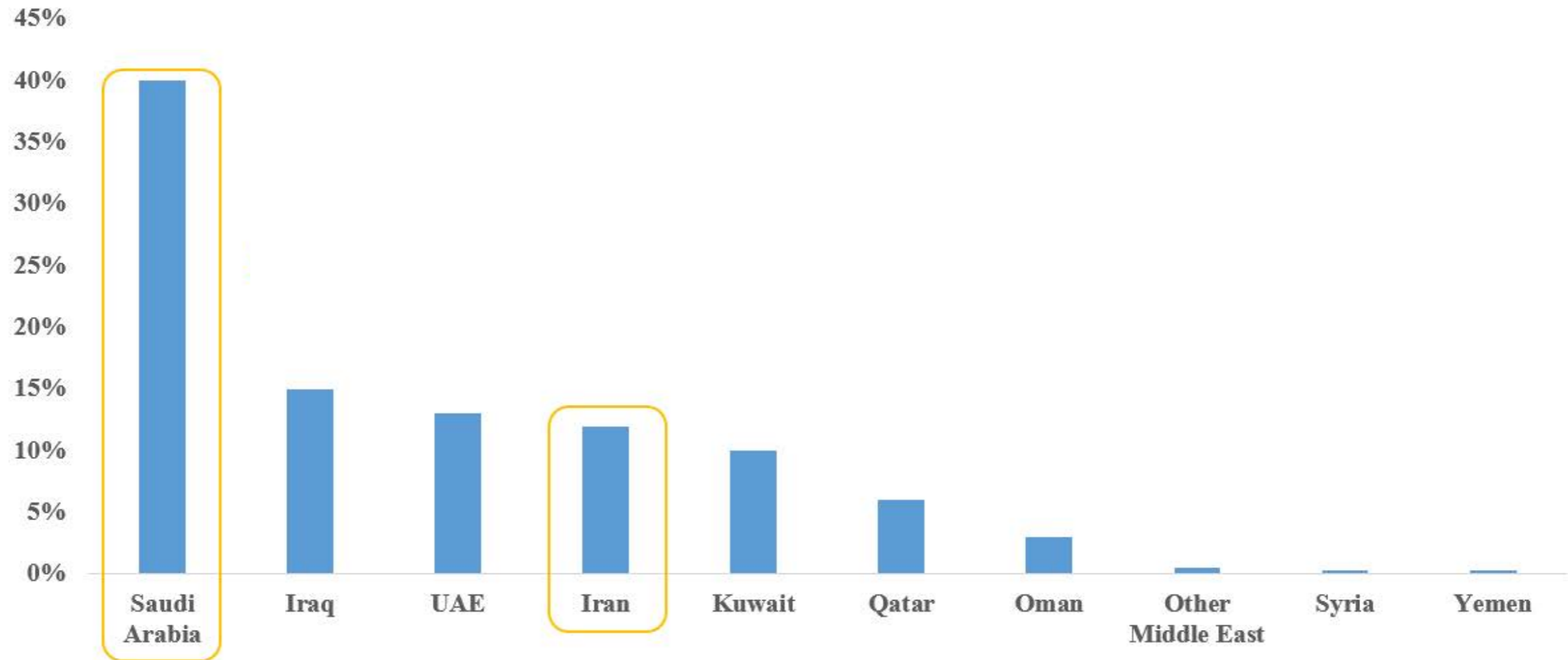
Saudi Arabia Produces 4X More Oil than Iran



Yale SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
Chief Executive Leadership Institute

Iranian Oil Easily Replaceable

Middle Eastern Oil Production By Country
(shown as % of total Middle Eastern oil production)



Will Iranian Oil Revenues Continue to Fund Terror?

Ben Cahill, Senior Fellow at CSIS, wrote on October 11 2023: “Between May and September of this year, Iran’s crude oil and condensate exports averaged some 1.4 million barrels per day (b/d), returning to levels not seen in at least four years. There is a widespread perception in the oil market that the United States has relaxed its sanctions enforcement on Iran as it negotiated over last month’s [release](#) of several political prisoners, among other issues. ”

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Daniel Yergin, Best-Selling Author and Vice Chairman of S&P Global, wrote on November 15 in the Wall Street Journal: “After ticking up a few dollars, the price of Brent crude has been even or lower than on Oct. 6, the day before Hamas’s attack on Israel. There are three reasons for this: the shale revolution, market psychology and a transformation in the politics of oil.”

- The shale revolution rebalanced the market. The U.S., once the world’s largest oil importer, is now its largest producer. On a net basis, the U.S. is “energy independent.”
- “Oil prices these days vibrate primarily on economic news and prospects”
- “In contrast to the embargo years of the 1970s, the Gulf Arab countries are thoroughly integrated into the world economy. They are focused on job creation, economic development and investment. They have also been in various stages of dialogue or diplomatic relations with Israel, seeing that as helpful to their own economies, at least up to now.”



What Led to October 7?



Israel: Remembering Its History

- 1948 - Israel's Independence and the start of the alliance with the United States
- 1967 - Israel's Six Day War against Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon
- 1973 - Egypt and Syria launch Yom Kippur War against Israel
- 1979 - Israel-Egypt peace treaty signed
- 1987 - Palestinians launch First Intifada (uprising) against Israel, fueled by HAMAS
- 1993 - Oslo Accords agreement between Israel and the Palestinians signed
- 1994 - Israel-Jordan peace treaty signed
- 2000 - Palestinians launch Second Intifada (uprising) of mass terrorism against Israel
- 2005 - Israel's unilateral disengagement of all civilians and soldiers from Gaza
- 2020 - the Abraham Accords established relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Morocco, and Sudan
- 2023 - first internal Israeli protests against judicial reform



20 Years of Rocket Attacks Against Israel from Gaza

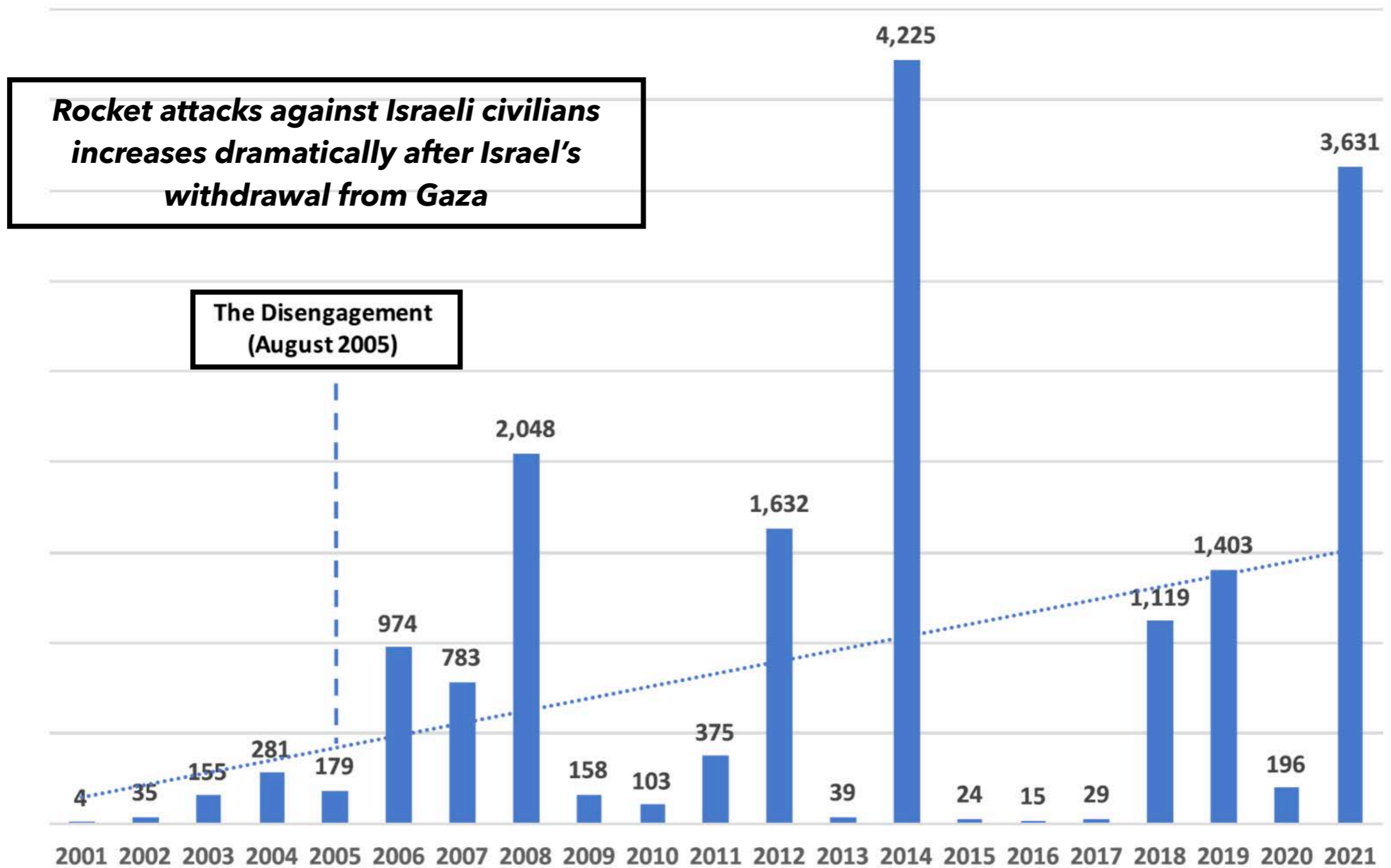


Figure 2. Number of rockets fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip by year.

Sources: Ben Sasson-Gordis (2016) and Meir Amit Terrorism and Information Center (2017–2022).



Energy Statecraft Brings Israel Closer to Arab Countries, Strengthens American National Security

Foreign Policy Research Institute: "**Gas geoeconomics** has strengthened the already emerging **geopolitical alignment** between Greece, Cyprus, Israel, Egypt, and the Gulf States"

Times of Israel: "Natural gas from Israel's Leviathan, one of the world's largest deep-water gas discoveries, which contains an estimated 22 trillion cubic feet of gas, started to flow to the Israeli domestic market in December 2019. Currently, a maximum capacity of up to 1.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, or 12 billion cubic meters per year, is piped up from the Leviathan reservoir for the supply and sale of gas to Israel, Egypt, and Jordan."

Israeli Natural Gas Trade Association: **Israel ranks 3rd among OECD countries in natural gas reserves per capita** with twice as much as Canada and nearly three times as much as the United States.

September 2020: Under the **Abraham Accords**, Israel establishes relations with United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain. Months later the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Sudan join.



While HAMAS Continues Armed Struggle Against Israel, Energy Statecraft Brings Israel Closer to Arab Countries

- **June 2022:** EU, Israel and Egypt sign deal to **increase gas exports from Israel and Egypt to Europe** to replace Russian energy imports during Ukraine-Russia War.
- **October 2022: Lebanon and Israel sign an agreement**, despite having no diplomatic relations. The maritime deal allows for both countries to benefit from an agreed maritime boundary, ensuring offshore natural gas exploration can continue for the benefit of both countries.
- **June 2023:** Israel begins formal cooperation with Egypt and the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank **to develop the Gaza Marine offshore gas field** estimated to hold more than 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas - enough to cover the gas needs of Gaza and also export gas.



Sept. 2023: Emboldened Iran, Growing Arab Engagement with Israel

- **September 2023:** Nearing Saudi '**megadeal**' to join the Abraham Accords and establish diplomatic relations with Israel
- **September 2023:** US-Iran prisoner swap includes unfreezing of **\$6B for Iran**
- **September 2023:** India-Middle East-Europe Corridor announced, connecting India to Europe - linked by a railway line and existing ports through the **United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Israel**



West Bank: Growing Security, Economic Challenges

AP March 2023: "With West Bank in turmoil, new Palestinian militants emerge"

"Palestinian [Authority security] forces now rarely venture into militant strongholds [in the West Bank] like the Old City of Nablus and the Jenin refugee camp...With the popularity of the PA plummeting, experts say it cannot risk inflaming tensions by arresting widely admired fighters."

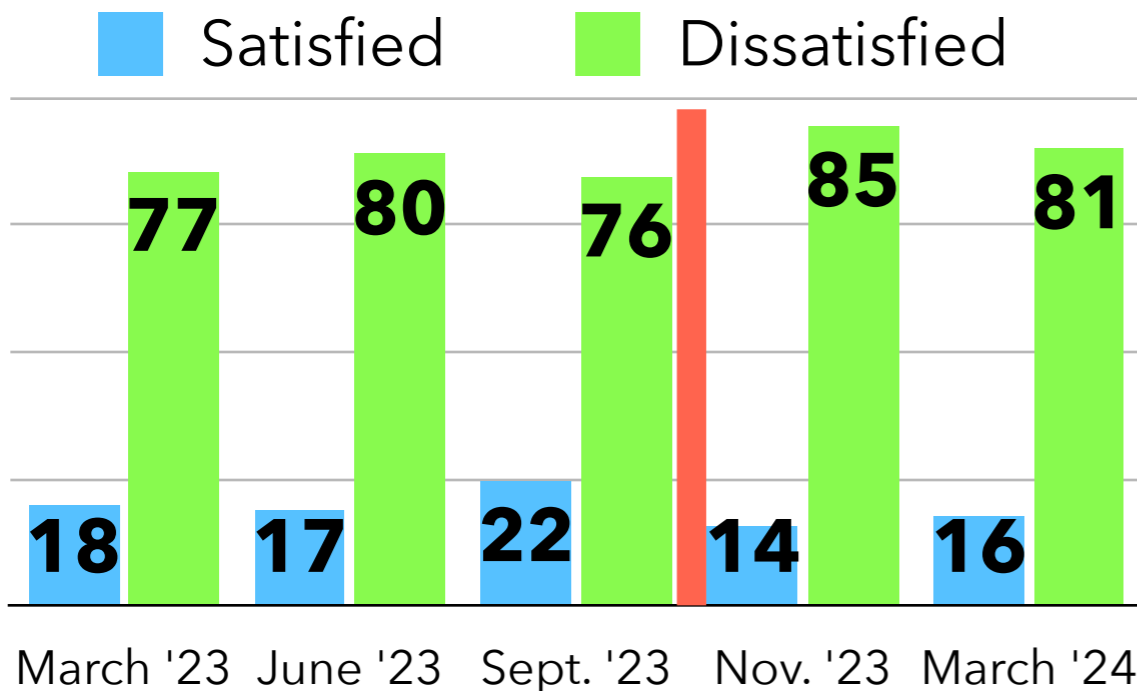
- PA's total debt to domestic banks: **\$2.5 billion (2022, with GDP of \$19 billion)**
- West Bank unemployment: **13% (2022)**

July 2023: Due to growing terrorism emanating from the West Bank and the lack of action from the PA security forces, Israel carried out its "**largest military operation in two decades**" in the West Bank

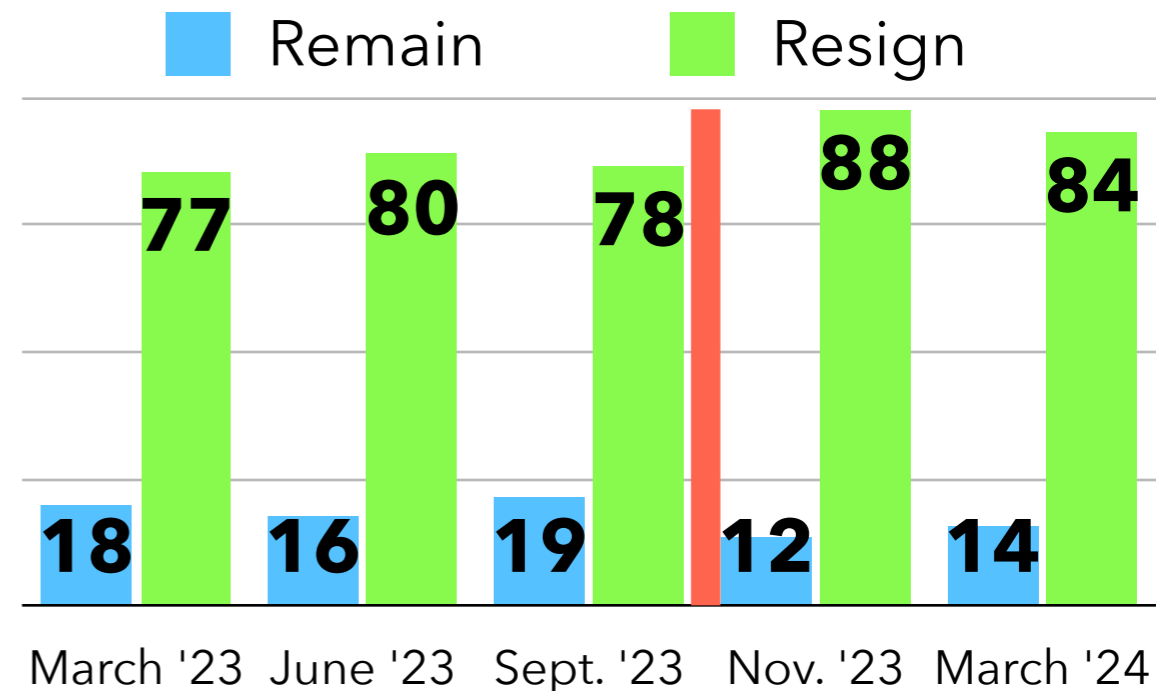


>80% of Palestinians in the West Bank & Gaza Want PA President Abbas to Resign, Dissatisfied with His Performance

PA President Abbas Job Performance



Should PA President Abbas Remain or Resign from office?

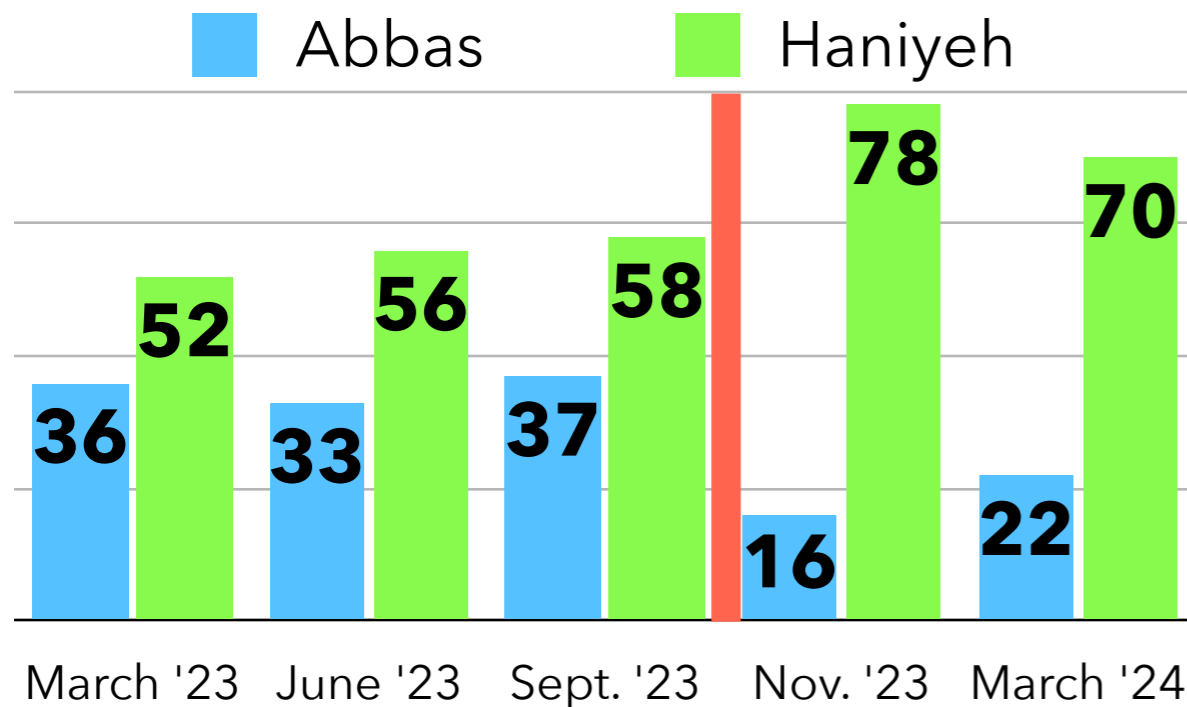


Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research: Polling conducted from March 8-11 '23, June 7-11 '23, Sept. 6-9 '23, Nov. 22 - Dec. 2 '23, and March 5-10 '24. Sample size 1,200 adults or more interviewed face-to-face in over 100 randomly selected locations. Margin of error +/-3%

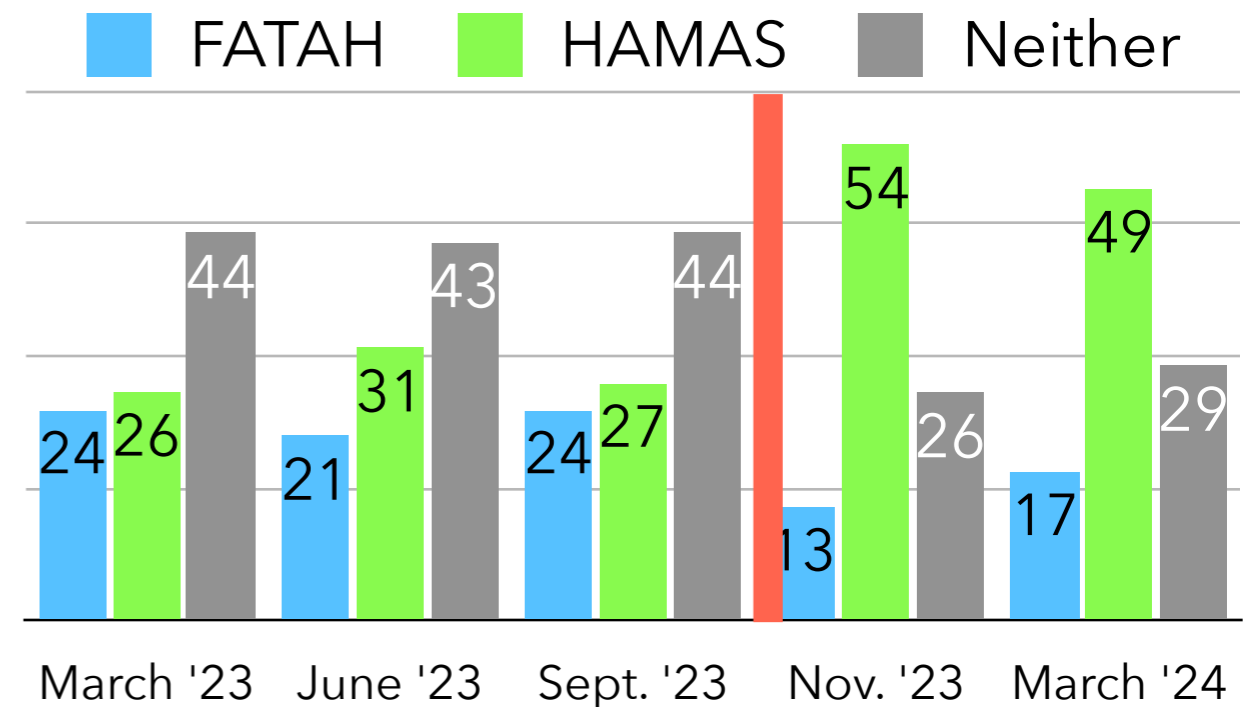


HAMAS Leader Ismail Haniyeh Would Win an Election Against PA President Abbas

Election: PA Pres. Abbas v. HAMAS' Haniyeh



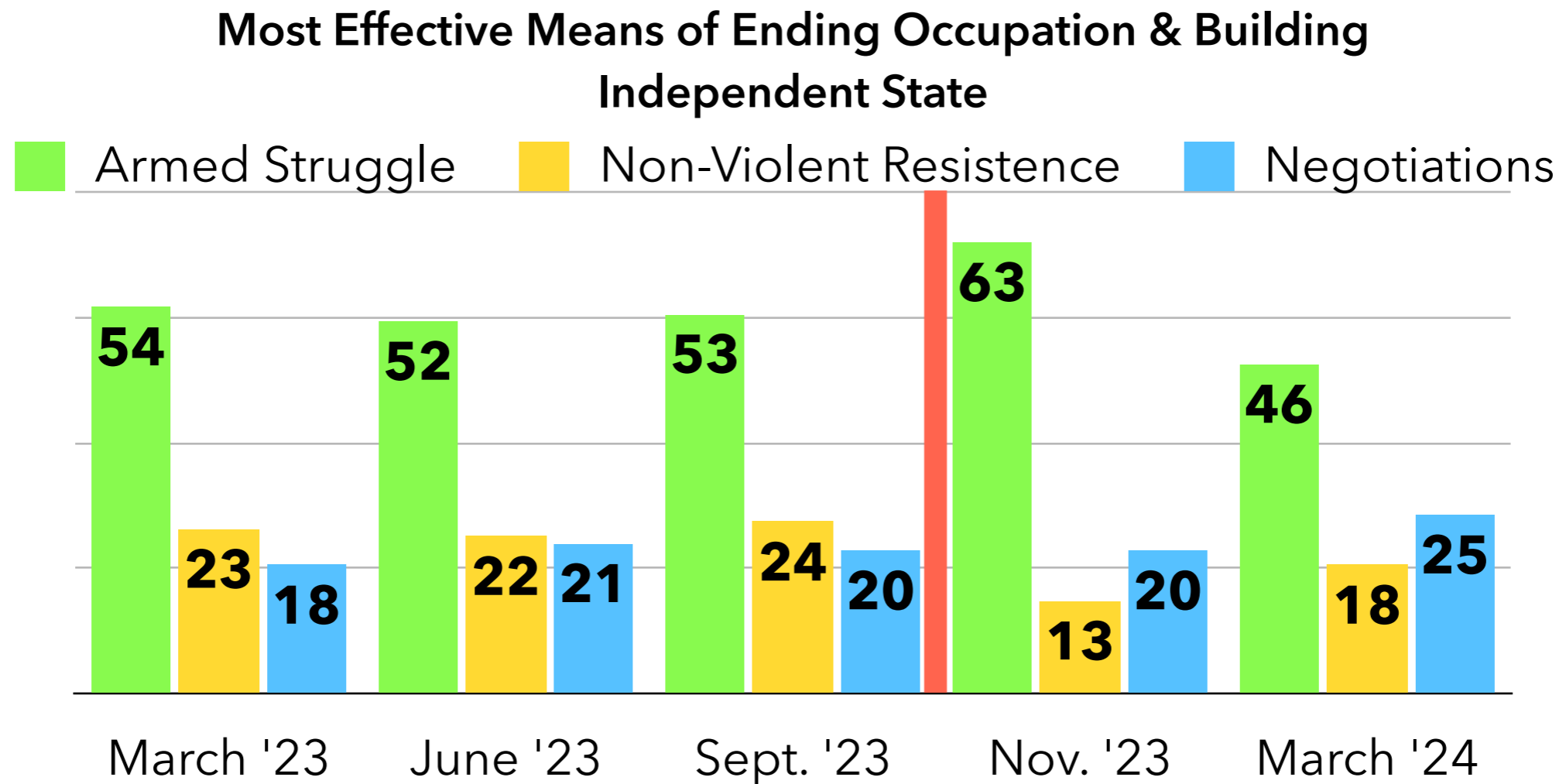
Most Deserving to Represent & Lead Palestinian People



Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research: Polling conducted from March 8-11 '23, June 7-11 '23, Sept. 6-9 '23, Nov. 22 - Dec. 2 '23, and March 5-10 '24. Sample size 1,200 adults or more interviewed face-to-face in over 100 randomly selected locations. Margin of error +/-3%



Violence Against Israel Seen as Effective by Palestinians



Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research: Polling conducted from March 8-11 '23, June 7-11 '23, Sept. 6-9 '23, Nov. 22 - Dec. 2 '23, and March 5-10 '24. Sample size 1,200 adults or more interviewed face-to-face in over 100 randomly selected locations. Margin of error +/-3%



HAMAS Increasing Size of Forces & Weapons

■ Arsenal (smuggled and self-made):

- **18,000-20,000 rockets** (short and long range)
- 300 anti-tank missiles
- 100 anti-aircraft missiles
- Small number of surface-to-air missiles, RPG, mines
- Dozens of unmanned aerial vehicles and drones
- Machine guns, assault rifles, sniper rifles

■ Forces (2023):

- **30,000-40,000 fighters**
- including 3,000-5,000 Nukhba elite forces
- including ~400 naval commandos



The Warning Signs: HAMAS Interview August 25, 2023

HAMAS Deputy Chairman Saleh Al Arouri to Lebanese TV:



"A total war has become inevitable. We all consider it necessary. We want it. At the resistance axis, **the Palestinian people, and our nation, we want this total war.**

It is not [just] something we say in the media. We talk about it behind closed doors. We are meeting with all the parties that [will take part] in this total war, and we are discussing together the different scenarios and possibilities."

The Warning Signs: IDF, Egyptian Intelligence

POLITICO

Our warnings on Hamas were ignored, Israel's women border troops say

"Several soldiers in Israel's predominantly female border surveillance forces...are telling the media their **superiors did not heed warnings of unusual activity inside Gaza, such as Palestinian guerrillas training with explosives or rehearsing attacks on a replica tank and a mock observation post...**

The women's warnings, made over several months, did not correspond to the received wisdom that Hamas had been tamed... The activity was not just minor, and included Hamas sending up drones several times a day in the weeks leading up to the attack."



THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

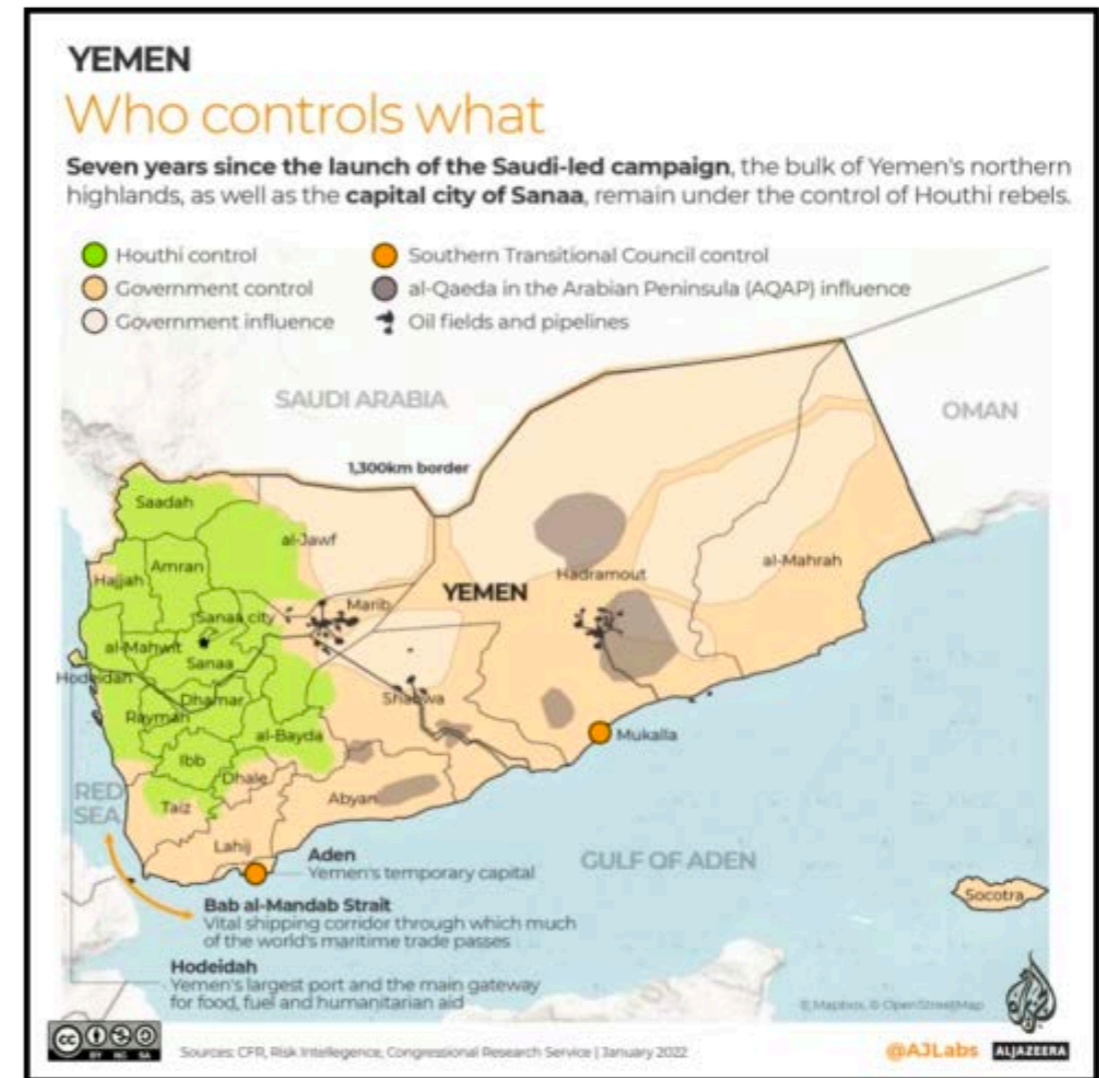
"Egyptian intelligence official said that **Jerusalem had ignored repeated warnings that the Gaza-based terror group was planning "something big"** – which included an apparent direct notice from Cairo's intelligence minister to the prime minister."



"We know that **Egypt has warned the Israelis three days prior that an event like this could happen,**" [House Committee on Foreign Affairs Chairman Rep.] McCaul told reporters following a closed-door intelligence briefing on Wednesday for lawmakers about the Middle East crisis"

Houthi Rebels in Yemen: an Enemy a 1,000 Miles Away

- The Ansarallah organization (referred to as 'Houthis') started a civil war against the Republic of Yemen government with over 377,000 Yemenis killed to date.
- The Houthis are a Zaydi Shiite clan representing ~35% of Yemen's population.
- The Houthis are funded and armed by Iran.
- Saudi Arabia supported the Yemeni government in its military operation by organizing a coalition of Gulf states, with US support. The Houthis used ballistic missiles and drones to attack Saudi Arabia and UAE.



الله أكبر
الموت لأمريكا
الموت لإسرائيل
اللعنة على اليهود
النصر للإسلام

Translation of the Houthi flag:

God is the greatest
Death to America
Death to Israel
Curse on the Jews
Victory to Islam



The October 7 HAMAS Massacre



How HAMAS Invades Israel in One Hour

Years of training and intelligence gathering (drone & human intelligence from Gazans working legally in Israel)

Fire over **3,000 rockets from Gaza** as cover, sending Israeli troops and civilians into shelters and effectively ending the existing ceasefire between Israel and Hamas

Sever surveillance towers, destroy unmanned weapon towers, neutralize IDF tanks along border with armed drones, bombs, guns and RPGs

Breach fence in 30 places, arrive by car, motorcycle, foot and paraglides

~3,000 terrorists invade Israel with extensive arms and vehicles, detailed maps and instructions, and GoPros



The Unfathomable Massacre

HAMAS terrorists...

- **Murdered** soldiers on IDF bases and purposefully hunted down **innocent civilians**
- Indiscriminately **tied up, tortured, murdered, beheaded, mutilated, burned alive,** and **raped (men and women)** innocent civilians of all ages
- **Seized** buildings to take hostages and entrench themselves
- **Took hostages** dead and alive back to Gaza
- **Burned** and destroyed homes, cars, and buildings
- Took to Al Jazeera and Al-Aqsa TV **to call for Palestinians in the West Bank to join the massacre**

*Oct. 7 was the deadliest attack in Israel's history. **More Jews died on Oct. 7 2023 than any day since the Holocaust.***



36 children murdered by Hamas in October 7 massacre, over 30 still held hostage

The children were slaughtered in their homes, in their bedrooms; several of them were horrifically burned alive, while others were brutally murdered in the presence of their parents; these are their names and faces

"The UN's envoy on sex crimes during conflict presented a report Monday at the UN indicating that **rape and gang rape likely occurred during the October 7 Hamas onslaught against southern Israel, that "clear and convincing" evidence shows that hostages were raped while being held in Gaza,** and that those currently held captive are still facing such abuse."



30% of October 7 Deaths: Tribe of Nova Music Festival

- 4,000 person outdoor electronic music festival located ~3.5 miles from the Gaza border occurred weekend of October 7
- **HAMAS entered the area of the festival, killing 364 (including 17 Israeli police officers) and abducting 40 people**
- After interrogating captured terrorists and due to a lack of maps relating to the festival site found on terrorists killed or captured, Israeli police concluded that the terrorists did not know in advance about the party. HAMAS stumbled upon the site, murdering hundreds of innocent civilians.



Israel's Failure (as per West Point's Modern War Institute)

Dangerous cocktail of 4 ingredients:

- **Underestimating** HAMAS's capabilities
- **Misunderstanding** HAMAS's intentions
- HAMAS utilized **improved operational security**
- **Confirmation bias**



Israel's Immediate Response

- **Active-duty IDF soldiers** stationed along the border fought HAMAS's infiltration and took heavy casualties.
- By 8am, **soldiers from Israel's combat units** (including many elite units) as well as reservists of all ages were heading south to fight back the terrorists without clear instructions.
- The IDF engaged in **intense urban warfare in Israeli territory** to retake IDF bases and Kibbutzim located along the Gaza border. Many soldiers were killed or injured.
- By Tuesday October 10, **terrorists who had infiltrated Israel on October 7 were killed or captured** (except 2 captured on November 6).

History Made: An all-female IDF tank crew arrived to the Gaza border, killing dozens of HAMAS terrorists who had invaded Israel.



Civilian Heroes From All Parts of Israeli Society

Arab-Israeli Ismail Alkrenawi and his family members evacuated over 30 people from the Nova Music Festival site during the massacre.



Oz Davidian, a farmer in southern Israel, made ~20 trips to and from the Nova Music Festival **evacuating over 100 young people under fire.**



Off-duty soldier Staff Sgt. Aner Shapira, 22, attended the Nova Music Festival and hid, along with ~30 other young people, in a nearby shelter. HAMAS terrorists found them, fired guns at the shelter, and threw 8 grenades inside. **Shapira, standing at the entrance, threw the first 7 grenades back outside the shelter.** The 8th grenade killed him.



Humanitarian Challenges Inflicted on Gaza by HAMAS

On October 7, HAMAS terrorists **destroyed**:

- **9 of 10 power lines** from Israel to Gaza
- **1 of 3 water pipelines** from Israel to Gaza
- **Erez Crossing between Israel and Gaza**, normally used for Gazans to access medical treatment and employment in Israel

i24 News: "Caught on camera: HAMAS terrorists steal humanitarian aid, beat civilians"

Times of Israel: Gaza aid trucks stolen by gunmen and looted, as convoys start crossing from Israel



Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 1

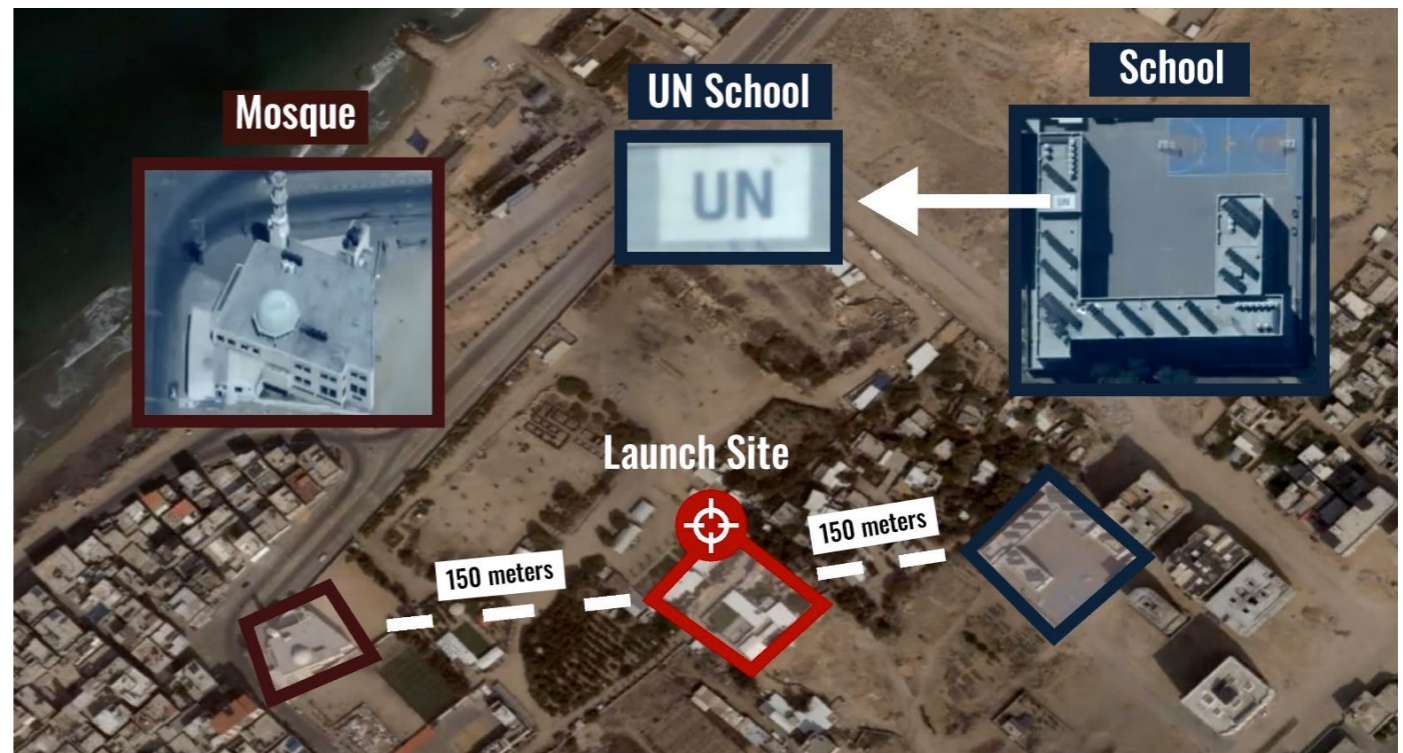
Oct. 8 - Oct. 13

Retaking the Homefront



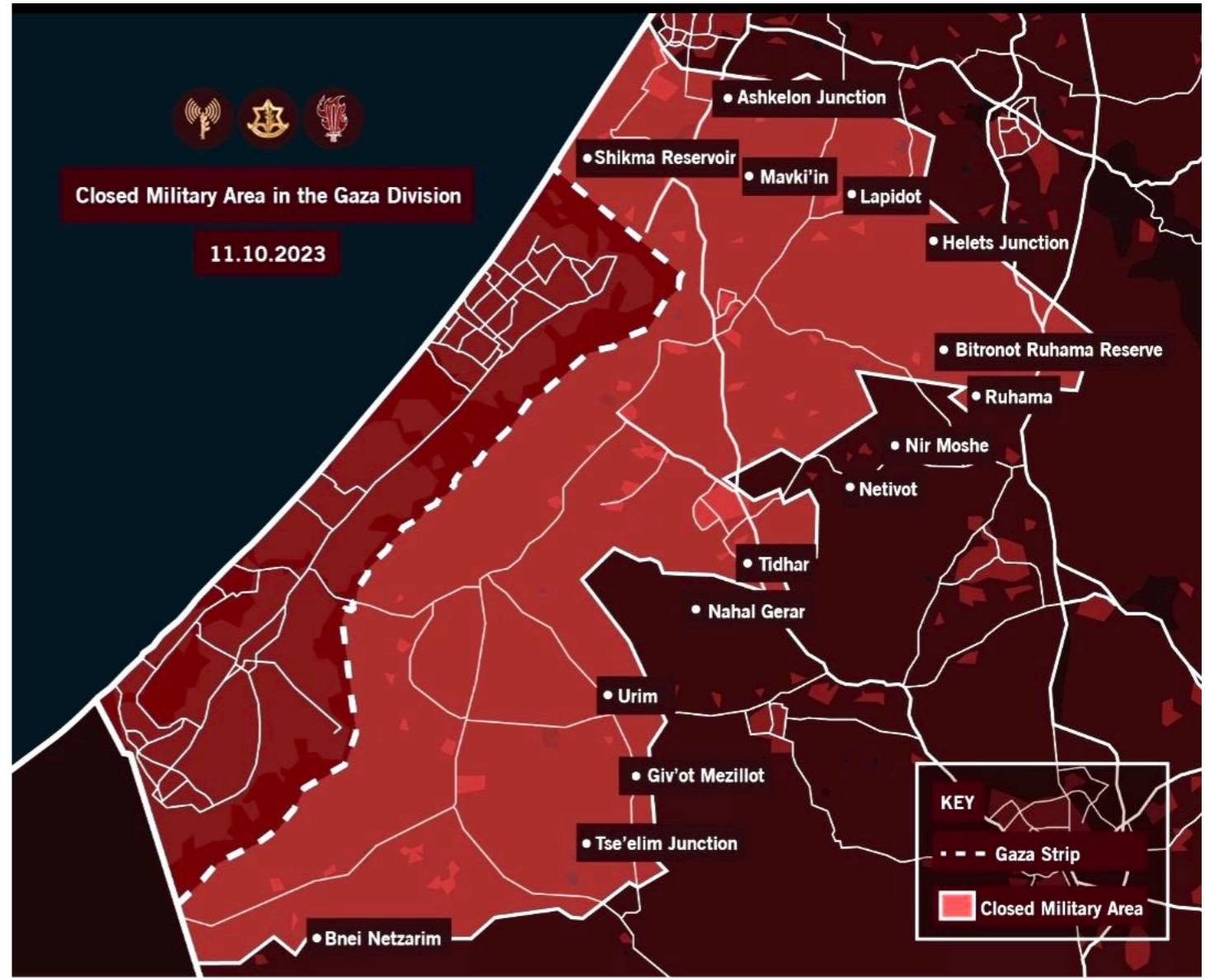
Israel Mourns & Prepares for War

- The process of identifying bodies (which still continues) and burying the dead begins in Israel, with **dozens of funerals each day**.
- Israel's Minister of Defense announces on Tuesday October 10: "**We have gained control of the area and are now moving on to a full-scale response.**" The Israeli Air Force begins the largest bombardment of Gaza ever, despite the challenge of **HAMAS's use of civilians and civilian buildings as human shields.**
- At the same time, an historic **360,000 IDF reservists are enlisted to support the 170,000 strong standing army**
- The IDF creates a special unit to gather intelligence on the hostages, as negotiations led by Israel's Mossad begin.



With Closed Military Zone, Evacuation of Israelis from Southern Israel Begins

- A **massive internal displacement of Israelis begins** with a forced evacuation of residents of Southern Israel.
- By November, the number of Israelis to have been forced to leave their homes would cover 64 villages and towns along the borders with Gaza and Lebanon, totaling **approximately 250,000 Israelis.**



Skirmishes Break Out on Israel's Northern Border

- In Lebanon, **Hezbollah has an estimated 150,000 rockets and missiles** in its arsenal, as well as **100,000 fighters** including many who gained experience in Syria fighting the Islamic State.
- Between October 8th and 13th, **over 2 dozen attacks on Israel from Lebanon**, including:
 - Multiple attempted infiltrations into Israel by armed Lebanese terrorists
 - Mortar shells, anti-tank missiles launched at Israel
 - IDF strikes terrorists and Hezbollah outposts along the border in response
- **Israeli and American leaders didn't explicitly mention Hezbollah publicly in Phase 1**
 - President Biden said on Tuesday October 10: "To any country, any organization, anyone thinking of taking advantage of the situation, I have one word: Don't."
 - He later repeated his general "Don't" warning to CBS 60 Minutes on October 15.



American Force Posture Seeks to Deter Hezbollah, Iran



US Visits to Region

- Oct. 12: Secretary Blinken
- Oct. 13: Secretary Austin

Military Response

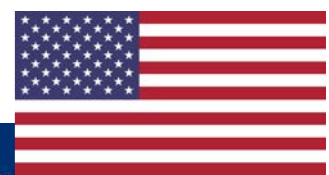
- Oct. 8: USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike group sent to Eastern Mediterranean (**world's largest aircraft carrier**)
- Oct. 10: USS Ford Carrier Strike Group arrives to region

**US CENTCOM Commander Gen. Kurilla comments on arrival of
USS Ford Carrier Strike Group to the region:**

*"The arrival of these highly capable forces to the region is **a strong signal of deterrence** should any actor hostile to Israel consider trying to take advantage of this situation."*



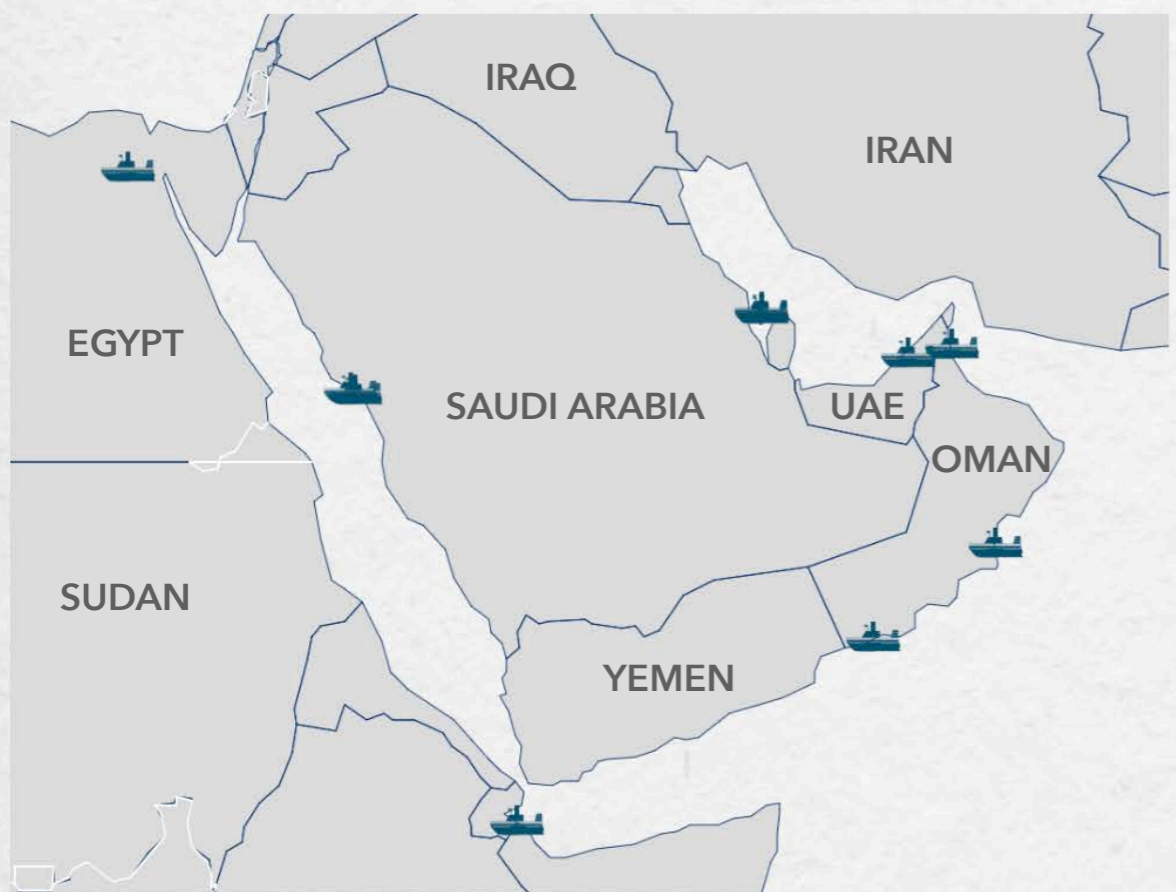
~40,000 US Soldiers Stationed in the Middle East



US Presence in the Middle East



US Naval Bases



Source: American Security Project.

US Air Force Bases



Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 2

Oct. 14 - Oct. 27

*Aerial Offensive &
Targeted Ground Incursions*



Israel is at War with HAMAS, Humanitarian Aid to Gaza Begins

- The Israeli Air Force’s massive aerial offensive continued against terror targets in Gaza, eliminating Hamas terrorists and bases, and clearing the way for ground forces’ eventual invasion by removing threats and creating optimal conditions. **IDF actions in Gaza increase pressure on hostage negotiations**
- Funerals continue as forensics personnel in Israel ID bodies from the October 7 massacre
- The Hostage and Missing Families Forum begins **public activity raising domestic and global awareness of the plight of the hostages** with the first hostage posters appearing around the world.
- October 21: **First convoy of 20 trucks with humanitarian aid enters Gaza**
- Later, this would reach **over 100 trucks daily**

KIDNAPPED



**Ariel
4-years-old
Israeli**

Kidnapped from his home by Hamas

On October 7th, nearly **200 innocent civilians** were abducted from Israel into the Gaza Strip. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

More than 3,000 women, men, and children, ranging in age from 3 months to 85 years old, were **wounded, murdered, beaten, raped**, and brutally separated from loved ones by Hamas.

Take a photo of this poster and share it

Please help bring them home alive.

#KidnappedFromIsrael



SCAN TO JOIN THE GLOBAL EFFORTS



White House, US Military Continue to Arrive in Israel



US Visits to Region

- Oct. 16: General Kurilla
- Oct. 18: President Biden & Secretary Blinken

US Military Response

- Oct. 14: **Another Carrier Strike Group and US Air Force fighter jets ordered to the region**



Oct. 18

US Treasury announces **new sanctions on 10 HAMAS** operatives and financial facilitators. This brings the total to nearly 1,000 individuals and entities sanctioned connected to terrorism and terror financing by the Iranian regime and its proxies, including HAMAS and Hizbollah.



Israel Prepares for Ground Invasion

- **Targeted ground operations** by IDF elite forces occurred inside Gaza along border with Israel and from the sea **to support the hostage search and prepare Gazan terrain for ground invasion.**
- **Starting Oct. 18, IDF begins telling Northern Gaza residents to move south to safer areas.** HAMAS tries to prevent the departure of civilians because HAMAS uses civilians as human shields. By Nov 20, IDF made over 30,000 live phone calls, send over 10 M text messages and over 9 million recorded voice messages to people who answered their phones, distribute ~4M flyers



Evacuation flyer calling for residents to move south



Oct 24 flyer dropped over Gaza

“If your will is to live in peace and to have a better future for your children, do the humanitarian deed immediately and share verified and valuable information about hostages being held in your area. The Israeli military assures you that it will invest maximum effort in providing security for you and your home, and you will receive a financial reward. We guarantee you complete confidentiality.

The Israel Defense Forces"



HAMAS's Use of Human Shields: Hiding Terrorist Forces & Weapons Behind Civilians and Inside Civilian Buildings

- **HAMAS hiding its terror infrastructure inside, under, or near mosques, schools, hospitals, homes, apartment buildings and other civilian buildings was an enormous challenge already before the war.**
- Unlike HAMAS, **Israel distinguishes between civilians and terrorists**, seeking to minimize civilian harm while HAMAS seeks to maximize civilian harm.
- The **HAMAS controlled Gaza Health Ministry** reported on October 27 that over 7,000 Palestinians had died since the start of the war. President Biden referred to data from the HAMAS Gaza Health Ministry, saying he had “no confidence in the numbers that the Palestinians are using.” **President Biden later said “I have no notion that the Palestinians are telling the truth about how many people are killed.”**
- Further, the **published numbers do not differentiate between civilians killed and terrorists killed.**
- While there was a tragic loss of civilian life in Gaza, focus should be put on **HAMAS's use of human shields** as a major cause of the loss of civilian lives.



Step By Step: HAMAS Caught Lying About Al Ahli Hospital

- **6:59PM, October 17:** an explosion occurs at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, HAMAS immediately blames Israel and announces that over 500 Gazans were killed and Al Jazeera quickly reports the accusation as fact.
- **The Media Reports HAMAS Lies:** headlines around the world blame Israel, including the New York Times' homepage with the headline: "Israeli Strike Kills Hundred" and another headline claiming "At Least 500 Dead."
- **The Region Responds:** Violent riots erupted throughout the Middle East. Arab leaders (including the King of Jordan, the President of Egypt, and the President of the Palestinian Authority) canceled a meeting with President Biden scheduled to take place in Jordan on October 18. Palestinian Authority President Abbas declared a 3 days of mourning. The UN Secretary General claims he was "horrified by the killing of hundreds of Palestinian civilians in a strike on a hospital."
- **October 18:** The IDF declassifies intelligence including intercepted phone call, radar imagery, and aerial surveillance proving that **the explosion was caused by terrorists in Gaza who fired a barrage of long-range rockets towards Israel** from a cemetery near the hospital and one of the barrage fell in the parking lot of the hospital, killing a few dozen people.
- **THE TRUTH:** governments of the US, UK, France and Canada publicly stated that their intelligence services confirmed Israel's account that the explosion was caused by a rocket fired from within Gaza by Palestinian Islamic Jihad. News outlets including the NYT, BBC, and Le Monde later published apologies and corrections. The Wall Street Journal, AP, Washington Post, CNN and Human Rights Watch conducted independent analyses and conclude that the explosion was caused by Palestinian Islamic Jihad rocket fire from within Gaza. The Wall Street Journal estimates that 50, not 500, people were killed.



Israel-Lebanon Border Escalates, Concern for War

■ Oct. 13 - 27 attacks from Lebanon include:

- Mortar (some days with 20-30), UAV attacks, rockets, anti-tank missiles, and surface-to-air missile
- Multiple attempted infiltrations by terrorists into Israel
- IDF responded with fire at Hezbollah targets

■ Oct. 15, President Biden interview with Scott Pelley on 60 Minutes:

- Scott Pelley: "What is your message to Hezbollah and its backer, Iran?"
- President Biden: "Don't. Don't, don't, don't."
- Scott Pelley: "Don't come across the border? Don't escalate this war?"
- President Biden: "That's right."

■ Oct. 16, PM Netanyahu at speech in Israel's parliament:

- "We have a message for Iran and Hezbollah: Do not test us in the north."

■ Oct. 16 mandatory evacuation begins of 28 communities along Israel's northern border



Houthi Rebels in Yemen Join the War

October 19: The USS Carney, an American Navy guided-missile destroyer, was operating in the northern Red Sea when **it intercepted three land attack cruise missiles and several drones fired by Houthi forces in Yemen.**



USS Carney firing intercepts on October 19



Translation of the Houthi slogan/flag:

God is the greatest
 Death to America
 Death to Israel
 Curse on the Jews
 Victory to Islam

First 5 Hostages Released or Rescued

Friday October 20

Judith Raanan, 59, and her daughter, Natalie, 17



Monday October 23

Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, and Nurit Cooper, 79



Friday October 27

Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) forces rescue Pvt. Ori Megidish,



Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 3

Oct. 28 - Nov. 14

Ground Incursion to Control Northern Gaza



IDF Begins Ground Operations in Northern Gaza



- **Cut off Northern Gaza** from Southern Gaza
- **Cut off Gaza City** from the sea
- **Encircle Gaza City**
- Enter **HAMAS strongholds**
- **Go house-by-house to kill or capture HAMAS** personnel and collect stored weapons (slow operations due to landmines, boobytraps, hidden HAMAS terrorists, tunnel entrances)
- **~40,000 IDF soldiers inside Gaza** from at least 3 Divisions 36th, 162nd, 252nd
- **Continue to tell Gazan civilians to move South** to safer areas



Gaza Evacuation Efforts Prove Successful

- By October 30th, **90% of Gazan residents of Northern Gaza moved south to safer areas** with access to humanitarian aid.
- Starting November 4th, the IDF created **special humanitarian corridors to allow safe passage** of residents from Northern to Southern Gaza who were still scared of HAMAS preventing their passage.



Nov. 8: IDF secures a humanitarian corridor for Gazan civilians to evacuate from Northern Gaza to Southern Gaza



Nov. 10: IDF secures a humanitarian corridor for Gazan civilians to evacuate from Northern Gaza to Southern Gaza



Terrorists Killed & Captured, Hostage Remains Confirm Death

- The IDF has not published an estimate of HAMAS casualties in Gaza except to claim that **the majority of the Palestinian fatalities are combatants and not civilians.**
- Later, Israeli PM Netanyahu would confirm that **Israel killed “thousands of terrorists.”**
- The IDF did confirm that **over 300 terrorists were captured alive in Gaza** and brought into Israel for interrogation.
- In the West Bank, of the approximately 2,000 people arrested or killed by the IDF in counter-terrorist operations since October 7 to prevent terror attacks emanating from there, **more than 60% were Hamas personnel.**
- Oct. 31: **IDF announces the death of Shani Louk** after remains of her skull were found. She was a 23 year old German-Israeli girl who had attended the Nova Music Festival and was taken hostage into Gaza.



Munitions Found and Cleared in Civilian Areas

Weapons found hidden under a child's bed in Gaza



Weapons lab found hidden in a mosque in Gaza



Weapons found hidden in a kindergarten in Gaza



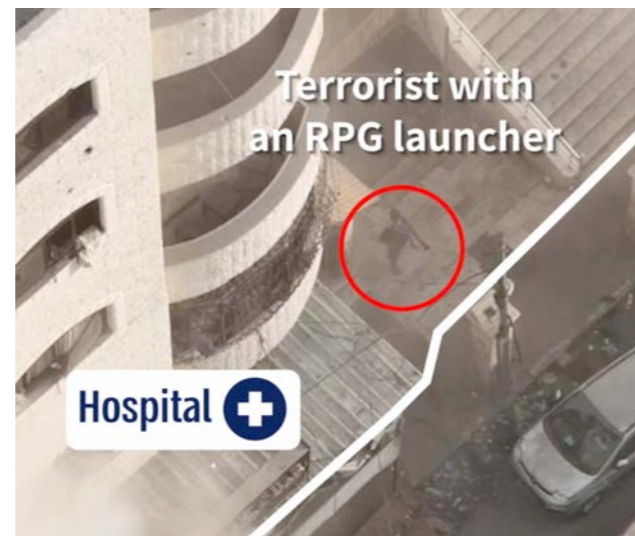
HAMAS Uses Hospitals to Hide Terror Operations

HAMAS systematically uses hospitals in Gaza for terror operations, as has so for years.

- In 2014, the Washington Post referred to Shifa Hospital as “a de facto headquarters for Hamas leaders, who can be seen in the hallways and offices.”
- IDF uncovered weapons caches, underground tunnels, and evidence of hostages inside and around hospitals throughout Gaza. HAMAS also fired at IDF soldiers from inside the Qatari hospital and was caught carrying a RPG into Al Quds hospital.



Weapons found in Shifa Hospital



Terrorist with RPG enters Al Quds Hospital



HAMAS fires from inside Qatari Hospital



Weapons found in Rantisi Children's Hospital

More American Forces Arrive to the Region



Military Response

Nov. 3: US acknowledges **US Air Force is flying surveillance drones over Gaza** since October 7 to support hostage rescue efforts

Nov. 4: Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group arrived to region

Nov. 5: Ohio-class submarine arrived to region

All missiles and armed drones fired by Houthis in Yemen were intercepted by IDF anti-missile defenses, the US Navy or Saudi anti-missile defenses.

One ballistic missile was shot down by an Arrow-3 defensive missile, an exoatmospheric hypersonic anti-ballistic missile funded, developed and produced by a US-Israel partnership between the Israel Aerospace Industries and Boeing.

US Visits to Region

- Nov. 3: Secretary Blinken



Nuclear powered US submarine transits the Suez Canal in the Middle East



US MQ-9 Reaper surveillance drone

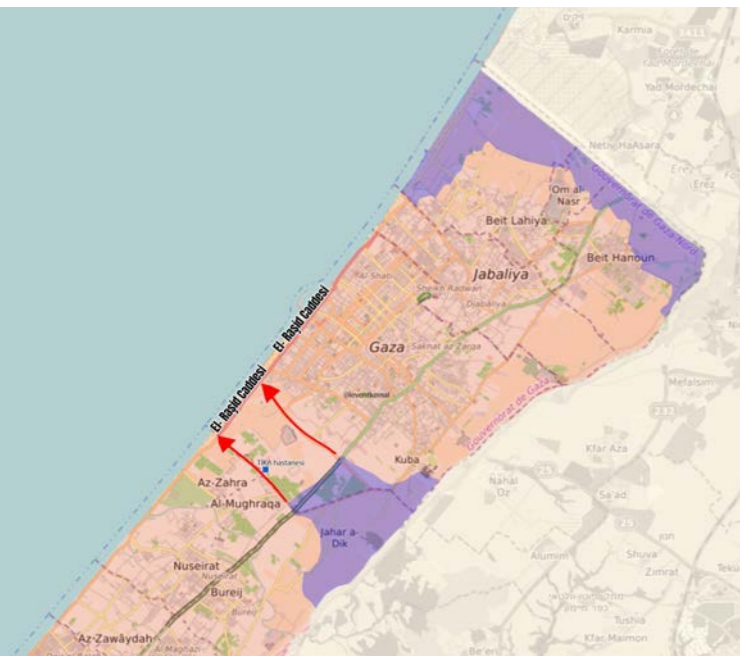


American and Israeli Deterrence Keeps Iran & Lebanon From Fully Joining HAMAS War

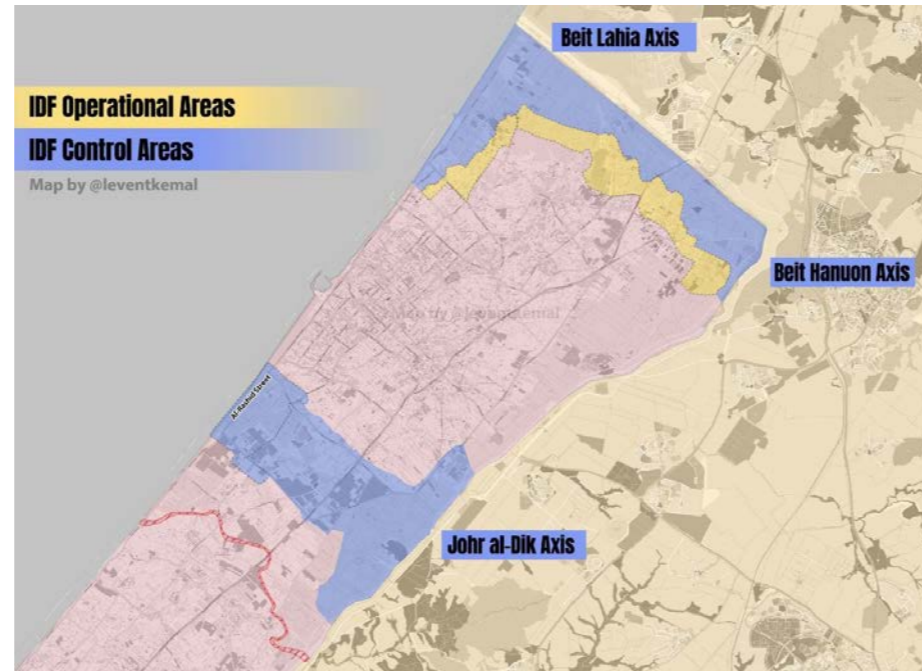
- In Lebanon, despite no calls by IDF to evacuate, **tens of thousands of Lebanese left Southern Lebanon** for northern parts of Lebanon, away from the border with Israel.
- There was **a gradual escalation in Hezbollah attacks from Lebanon on Israel** in the number of rockets and in the size of the munitions fired into Israel. Hezbollah also used exploding drones, surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank missiles and continued infiltration attempts, injuring Israeli civilians and soldiers.
- **In part due to American and Israeli deterrence, the leaders of Hezbollah (Hassan Nasrallah) and Iran (Ali Khamenei) made excuses as to why they did not fully join the HAMAS war against Israel.** It is not clear if this represents their true intention or a tactic to evade Israeli defenses.
- The Chief of the General Staff, of the IDF LTG Herzi Halevi, said on November 5 during a meeting in the Northern Command: **"We are ready to strike in the north at any moment."**



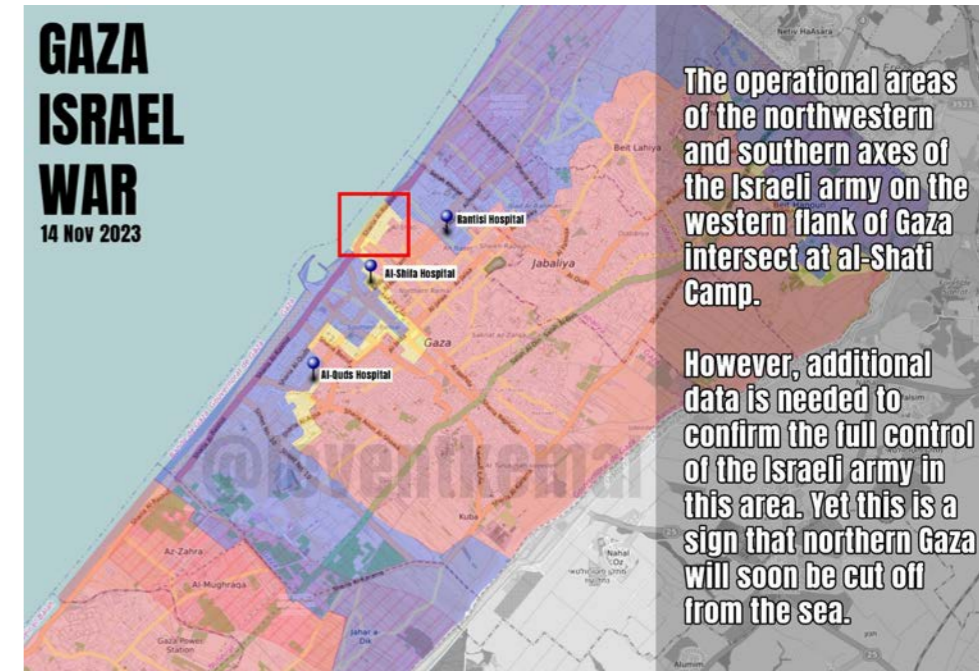
IDF Forces Progress Through Northern Gaza



October 31



November 2



November 14

Images sourced from [@LeventKemai](https://twitter.com/LeventKemai)



November 14: Northern Gaza Secured by the IDF

The **Israeli military seized broader security control of northern Gaza on Tuesday November 14**, including capturing the HAMAS parliament building and HAMAS's police headquarters - locations that carried high symbolic value. In a nationally televised news conference, Israeli Defense Minister Gallant said **HAMAS had "lost control" of northern Gaza** and that Israel made significant gains in Gaza City.



Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 4

Nov. 15 - Nov. 30

*Focus Turns to Southern Gaza,
Major Hostage Release & Pause*



IDF Focus Moves to Southern Gaza

Nov. 16
Financial Times:

“Israel is planning military operations in southern Gaza and has asked residents of some neighborhoods to evacuate their homes, according to leaflets dropped into the city of Khan Younis that signalled a potential widening of the Israeli invasion.”

Nov. 16
IDF:

IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gn. Herzi Halevi said the “IDF was close to dismantling Hamas’s military capabilities in the north of Gaza and after that, would expand to more and more regions in Gaza.”

Nov. 17
IDF:

IDF Chief Spokesperson Read Adm. Daniel Hagari said that the IDF was “pushing forward against Hamas wherever it exists, including in the south of Gaza.”



Image source

Massive Increase in Humanitarian Aid to Gaza

- By the 50th day of war, Israel had gone from allowing 0 to **over 100 trucks of humanitarian aid into Gaza every day**. As part of the hostage agreement, over 400 aid trucks entered Gaza on November 24 and 25 alone.
- Israel even allowed for fuel trucks to begin entering Gaza daily to support UN aid logistics and operate sewage facilities, even though **the UN confirmed that HAMAS had stolen fuel from a UN facility after October 7**.
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United Arab Emirates each built a field hospital in Southern Gaza. French and Italian floating hospitals docked off the coast of Egypt until the end of January 2024, and a UAE floating hospital opening in March 2024.
- Hundreds of wounded Gazans left Gaza via Egypt for treatment in hospitals around the region.

All data sourced from the Israel Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories



Continued Street-by-Street Action in Northern Gaza Uncovered Use of Civilian Locations to Hide Weapons, Forces



PIJ Missiles found adjacent to a courthouse and the Turkish hospital



PIJ Heavy rockets confiscated in northern Gaza



Grenades, guns found inside a school



Anti-tank missile found under a baby's crib

Escalation Along Israel-Lebanon Border

Nov. 15 - 23 attacks from Lebanon include:

- Every day, mortar (some days with 35), armed drones, rockets, anti-tank missiles, or surface-to-air missiles were fired at Israel from inside Lebanon
- IDF responded with fire at Hezbollah targets inside Lebanon
- No reports of ground forces of Hezbollah or other terrorists attempting to infiltrate into Israel, an improvement over previous phases of the war



Yemen: Ship & Hostages Seized

- November 15: USS Thomas Hudner, another destroyer, was sailing toward the Bab-el-Mandeb strait when the crew saw a drone, reported to have originated in Yemen. The ship shot down the drone.
- Nov. 20: **Yemen’s Houthi rebels hijack an Israeli-linked ship in the Red Sea and take 25 crew members hostage**, saying they hijacked the ship because of its Israeli connection. The Houthis descended onto the ship by rappelling from a helicopter.
- Nov. 23: **USS Thomas Hudner, shoots down more attack drones en route to Israel from the Houthis in Iran.**
- Nov 25: Israeli air force intercept armed drone heading towards Israel in the Red Sea

U.S. Central Command @CENTCOMArabic

في صباح يوم 23 نوفمبر/ تشرين الثاني (بتوقيت اليمن)، أسقطت [#مدمرة_الصواريخ_الموجهة](#) [#يو_إس_إس_توماس_هودنر](#) (دي دي جي 116) عدة طائرات هجومية بدون طيار أحادية الاتجاه أطلقت من المناطق التي يسيطر عليها [#الحوثيون](#) في [#اليمن](#). تم إسقاط الطائرات بدون طيار بينما كانت السفينة الحربية الأمريكية يو إس إس توماس هودنر في دورية في [#البحر_الأحمر](#). لم تتعرض السفينة وطاقمها لأي ضرر أو إصابة.

On the morning (Yemen time) of November 23, the [#USS_Thomas_Hudner](#) (DDG 116) shot down multiple one-way attack drones launched from [#Houthi](#) controlled areas in [#Yemen](#). The drones were shot down while the U.S. warship was on patrol in the [#Red_Sea](#). The ship and crew sustained no damage or injury



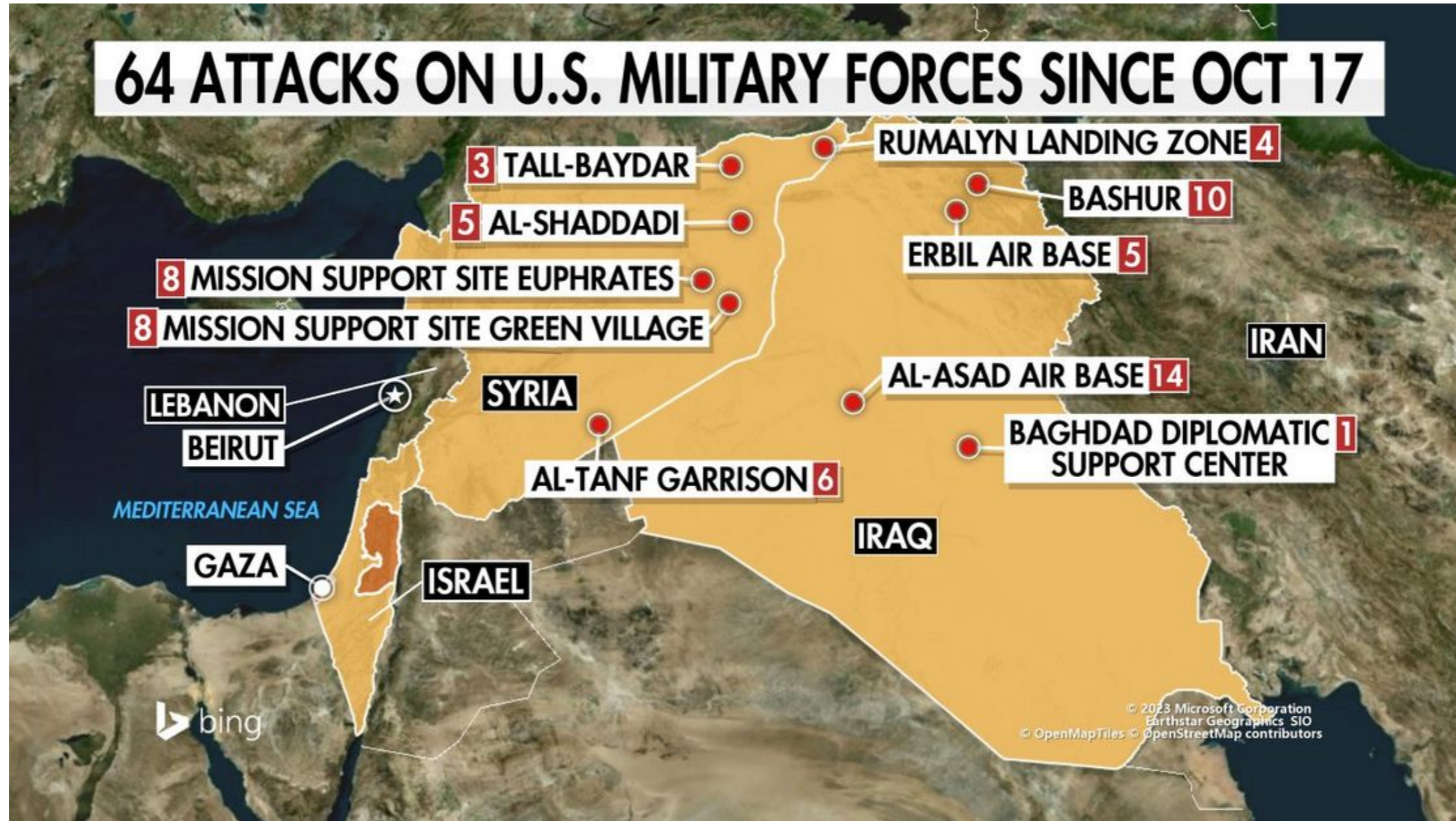
Screen shots from Houthi propaganda video of their hijacking the Galaxy Leader cargo ship in the Red Sea



American Forces Come Under Attack in the Middle East From Iran-Backed Militias in Iraq and Syria



Nov. 30: Secretary Blinken visits region



Hostage Bodies Recovered, Agreement on Pause in Fighting

- Nov. 16, Nov. 17: **IDF recovers dead bodies of 2 hostages** taken alive on October 7. They were found near the Shifa Hospital.

- Nov. 21: **announcement of hostage agreement brokered by the US, Egypt, and State of Qatar**, to include:
 1. Cessation of IDF operations inside Gaza for 4 days
 2. Entry of hundreds of trucks of humanitarian aid and fuel into Gaza
 3. Release of 50 women and children hostages in exchange for Israel's release of 150 convicted criminals and terrorists from Israeli prisons (released at a ratio of 3 to every 1 Israeli hostage)
 4. Option to extend cessation of IDF operations for an extra day for each 10 hostages released



7 Days of Hostage Agreement Brings 105 More Hostages Home

- Nov. 24: **pause in IDF actions in Gaza begins**, entrance of extensive humanitarian aid begins, **release of 13 Israeli, 10 Thai, and 1 Filipino hostage**; Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 25: **release of 17 hostages** (13 Israeli, 4 Thai) as Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 26 (day 51 of the war): **release of 17 hostages** (13 Israeli, 3 Thai, 1 Russian-Israeli), Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 27 (day 52 of the war): **release of 11 Israeli hostages**, Israel freed 33 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 28: (day 53 of the war): extension of agreement, **release of 12 hostages** (10 Israeli, 2 Thai), Israel freed 30 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 29 (day 54 of the war): extension of agreement, **release of 16 hostages** (10 Israeli, 2 Russian-Israeli, 4 Thai), Israel freed 30 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 30 (day 55 of the war): extension of agreement, **release of 8 Israeli hostages**



Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 5

Dec. 1 - April 7

*Ground Invasion of Southern Gaza,
Expanded Attacks in Red Sea,
Regionalization of the War*



Released Hostages Share the Horrors of Captivity

- Due largely to intelligence gathered from released hostages, **15 hostages in Gaza were declared dead**
- Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, was **beaten in the ribs with sticks by Hamas terrorists**, saying that “the lack of air in the tunnels, as well as **the shortage of food and medicine**, could bring people to complete exhaustion, and they just won’t make it.” She claimed they were led through a tunnel system and gathered in a large room that appeared to have been “prepared in advance.”
- Hila Roten Shoshani, 12, told her family **“there wasn’t enough food....sometimes they waited for water.”**
- Keren Munder said that **“food was in short supply,”** while her mother Ruthy Munder said that she was kept in a suffocating room and slept on plastic chairs, covering herself with a sheet..
- The Uncle of hostages Yagil (12) and Or (16) Yaakov recounted how **they were branded and drugged**. The Aunt of hostage Eitan Yahalomi (12) told French TV that terrorists **beat him and forced him at gunpoint to watch raw video of the October 7 Massacre, and if he or any of the other children cried, they were treated with the gun.**
- Chen Goldstein-Almog, 48, said “she had met other hostages who were badly treated, including **two women who said they were sexually abused.**” She also said “Most days **they survived off pita bread with cheese.**”



Released Hostages Share the Horrors of Captivity

- **Eitan Yahalomi, 12, was beaten** and HAMAS “put him alone in a cell with bars and he was left alone for 16 days in the custody of armed men from Hamas,” his mother recounted. When he cried, HAMAS “threatened him with a gun.” He was “only allowed to shower twice in 52 days, never slept on a mattress, and was beaten by terrorists.”
- The Israeli Health Ministry confirmed that **HAMAS drugged Israeli hostages with Klonopin, a tranquilizer, right before their release.**
- On March 26, former HAMAS hostage Amit Soussana gave the first detailed first-hand account of sexual assault to the New York Times. Two weeks after being beaten and dragged into Gaza on October 7 from her home, she was forced to undress at gun point. **She was beaten, groped, and then “dragged at gunpoint” to the child’s bedroom she was held captive in, where the terrorist sexually assaulted her.**



Amit Soussana was sexually assaulted while in HAMAS captivity.

HAMAS Ends Cease-Fire

IDF Continues Operation in Northern Gaza

- Early on Dec. 1 **HAMAS fired rockets into Israel prior to the 7am cease-fire conclusion** and failed to deliver a list of hostages to be released, which **effectively ended the cease-fire**. The **US blamed HAMAS for the collapse of the ceasefire**.
- **HAMAS used the cease-fire to reorganize and redeploy forces**, making the subsequent fighting more intense. 186 IDF soldiers were killed since the cease-fire (Dec. 1-Jan. 14) compared to 63 IDF soldiers killed from the ground invasion through the cease-fire (Oct. 27-Nov. 30).
- The **IDF exploited the cease-fire to clear the ground it had captured** of HAMAS tunnels and hideouts.
- The eastern areas of Northern Gaza were controlled by highly trained HAMAS units and were more fortified, therefore had not been breached earlier by the IDF.
- **IDF went building by building** in Northern Gaza neighborhoods in northern Gaza - finding terrorists, weapons, and weapons labs, including inside a university and hospital. **IDF kills 3 Israeli hostages** in a traumatic incident, the bodies are returned to Israel

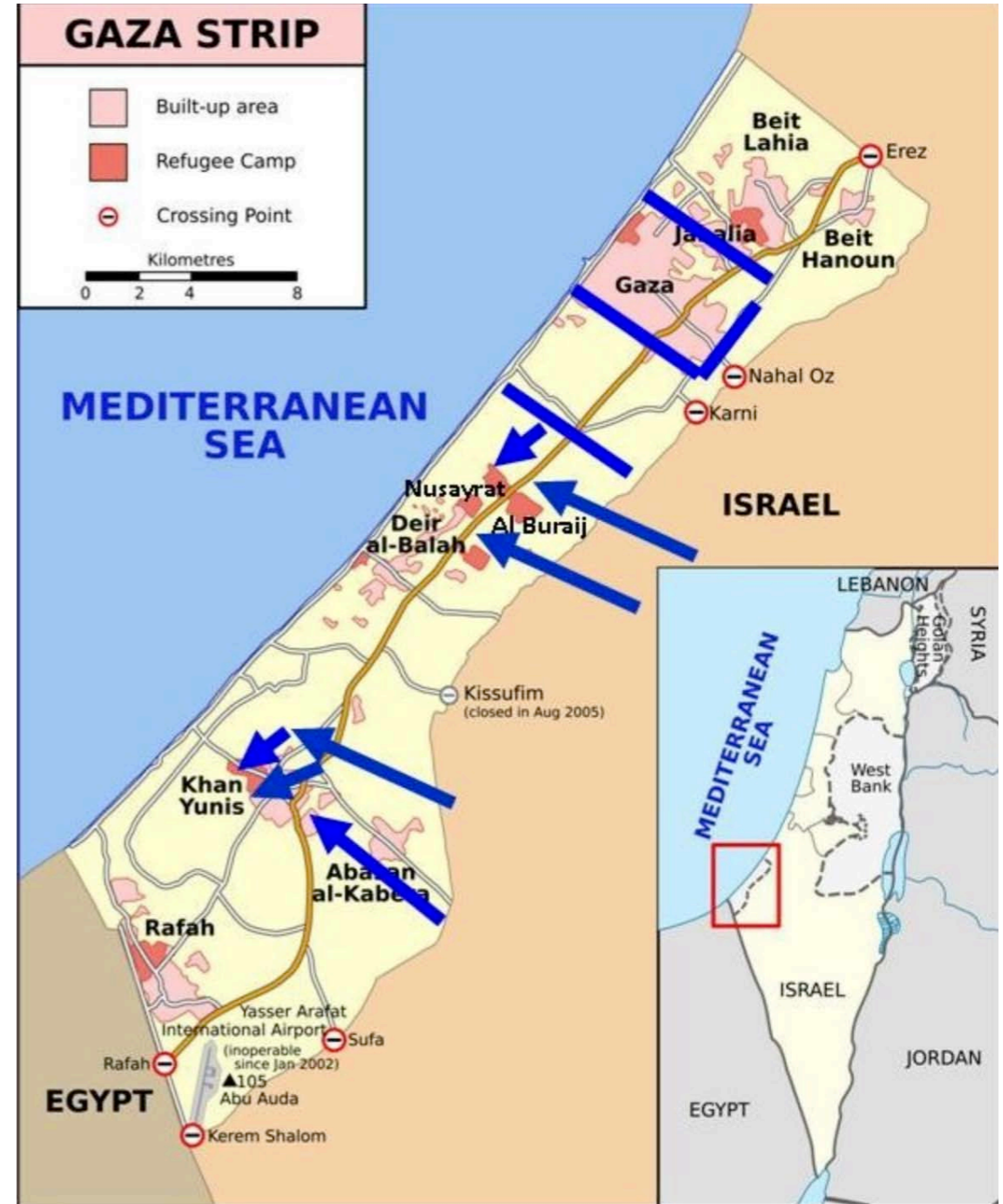


Pictured to the right, **the IDF apprehended ~80 terrorists** in the area of a hospital in Jabalya, alongside guns, RPGs, and bombs.

Continued Operation in Northern Gaza, Ground Invasion into Southern Gaza

December 2023

January 2024



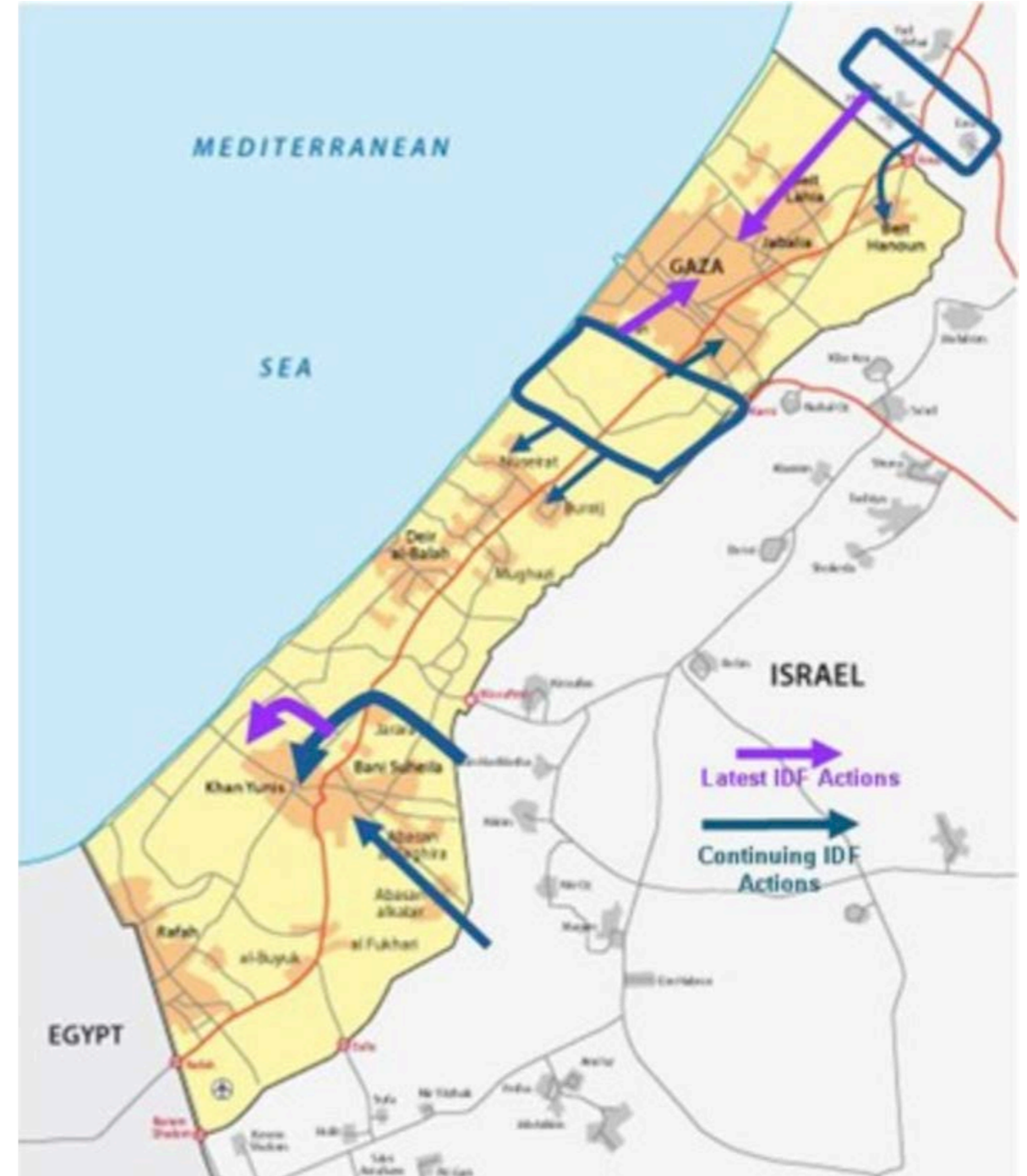
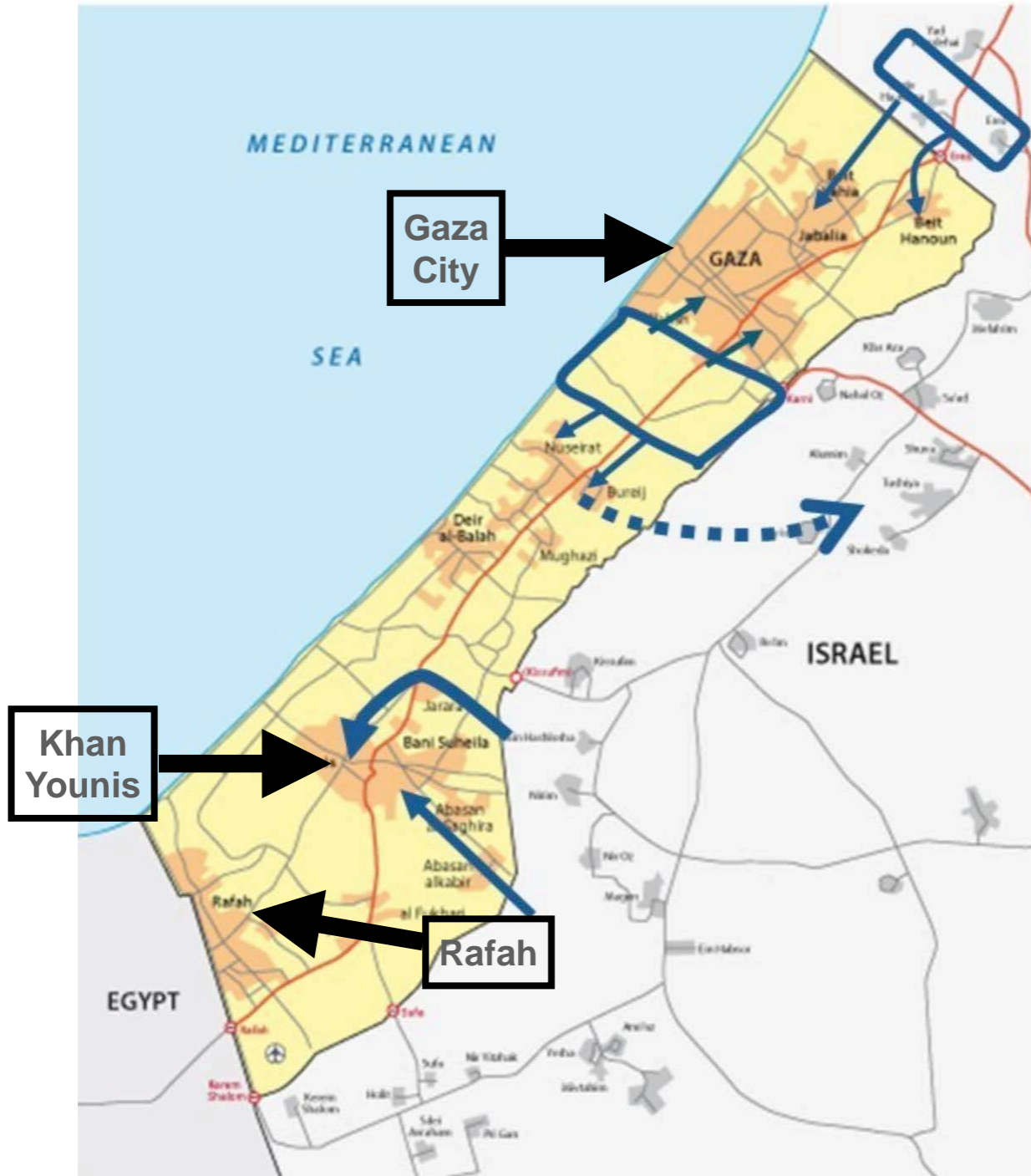
IDF entered Southern Gaza after completely encircling Northern Gaza

IDF encircled Gaza City in Northern Gaza, entered Central Gaza, and advanced in Southern Gaza

Continued Operation in Northern Gaza, Ground Invasion into Southern Gaza

February 2024

March 2024



IDF Invaded Southern Gaza, Focusing on Khan Younis

Style of Warfare Changing

- **First partially** encircled from North, East, and West (leaving the South open for civilian evacuation) and **then full encirclement by the IDF of Khan Younis**
- Axios: "The IDF believes **Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar and Mohammed Deif are hiding in Khan Younis**, and one of the main goals of the operation in the city is to capture or kill them." IDF has been operating for weeks inside the tunnels under Khan Younis in an attempt to catch HAMAS leaders.
- IDF continues to **destroy HAMAS' internal weapons manufacturing capabilities** of rockets, missiles, sniper rifles, bullets, drones, grenades, and bombs throughout Gaza, with HAMAS rocket fire dropping from an average of 75 per day in early December 2023 to 14 per day by the end of December 2023.

Fighting in Gaza **transitioned to small-scale guerilla-style attacks** of the hit-and-run nature by HAMAS personnel still remaining above ground in Northern and Southern Gaza, as the **IDF released over half of the 50,000 soldiers that were once operating in Gaza**



Key Quotes from IDF Chief of Staff Statement on Dec. 6

- “We operate professionally; **evacuating the population from combat zones**; striking HAMAS from above and below ground with combined strikes from the air, sea, and land.”

- “Many ask about the destruction in Gaza. Hamas is the address. Sinwar is the address. **Our forces find in nearly every building and house weapons and in many houses terrorists, and engage them in combat.** We understand that part of their method is the weapons left in the houses.”

- A terrorist arrives in civilian clothing and conducts combat from there. Striking them requires significant use of fire, both to target the enemy but also to, of course, protect our forces. Therefore the **forces operate powerfully, while making enormous efforts to mitigate as much as possible harm to civilians.**”



Link to full statement by IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Halevi [here](#):



Assassinations in Gaza

■ Marwan Issa - HAMAS' #3 leader in Gaza

- He ascended the HAMAS military ranks and served since 2012 as the #2 to Mohammad Deif, the leader of HAMAS' military wing (Qassam Brigades), in his capacity as Deputy Commander of HAMAS military wing. He previously spent time in both Israeli and Palestinian Authority prisons.
 - As Deputy Commander of HAMAS military wing, Issa was the right-hand man to Deif, is believed to run many of Hamas's day-to-day operations. He served on both the HAMAS military council and in its political office and helped plan the October 7 massacre.
 - With Deif spending much of his life incognito, Issa helped run logistical operations for HAMAS' al-Qassam Brigades.
 - Israel attempted to assassinate him in 2006, 2014, and 2021. He was successfully targeted on March 10.
- ## ■ Faiq Mabhouh, Head of HAMAS' Internal Security Operations Directorate
- His brother, Mahmoud Mabhouh, was in charge of weapons procurement for HAMAS and was assassinated in Dubai in 2010

Marwan Issa
Deputy Chief of HAMAS Military



Onwards Towards Rafah

■ IDF evacuation orders in southeastern Gaza suggested forward movement towards Rafah

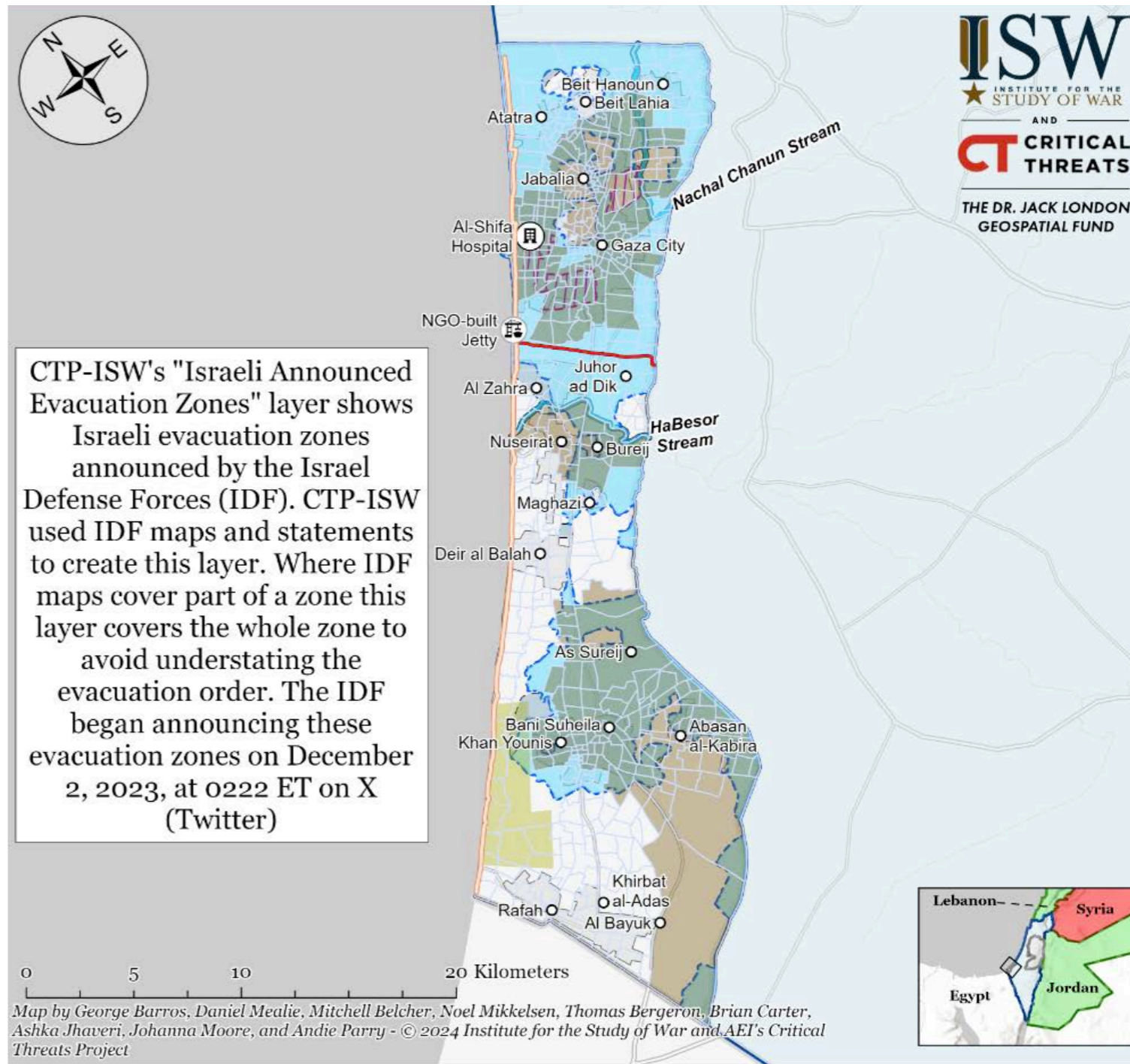
■ Feb. 1: Defense Minister Gallant warned that Israel "**might expand combat to Rafah** after focusing on Khan Younis, southern Gaza's largest city."

■ On Feb 4, PM Netanyahu said: "Most of the remaining [HAMAS] battalions are in the southern [Gaza] Strip and in Rafah, and we will deal with them."

■ Feb. 21: IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi and Israeli Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) Director Ronen Bar visit Cairo to meet Egyptian intelligence chief Abbas Kamel to discuss a Rafah operation

■ March 9: Minister Gantz said: "If by Ramadan our hostages are not home, the **fighting will continue to the Rafah area.**"

■ March 22: PM Netanyahu said: "**We have no way to defeat HAMAS without going into Rafah** and eliminating the rest of the [HAMAS] battalions there."



Hezbollah Escalates Israel-Lebanon Border Conflict

- While Hezbollah ceased fire against Israel during the Israel-HAMAS cease-fire, **Hezbollah also renewed firing at Israel alongside HAMAS.**
- **Israeli leaders hint at potential pro-active action against Hezbollah**
 - Minister Benny Gantz, member of the Israeli War Cabinet, suggested that **increasing Hezbollah strikes on northern Israel “demand of Israel to remove such a threat”**
 - IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Halevi said on Dec. 10 while on a visit to the Israel-Lebanon border that **Hezbollah risked pushing IDF forces to make a “very clear change”** in the conflict as Israel needs a return of “both safety and a sense of security.”
 - On Feb. 3, the **IDF issued its most detailed warning yet to Hezbollah** saying that it would be “ready to attack immediately” and made a rare acknowledgment of dozens of airstrikes inside of Syria against Hezbollah.

On Feb. 5, Israeli Defense Minister Gallant said there is **“an overwhelming chance of a second front opening up in the North.”**

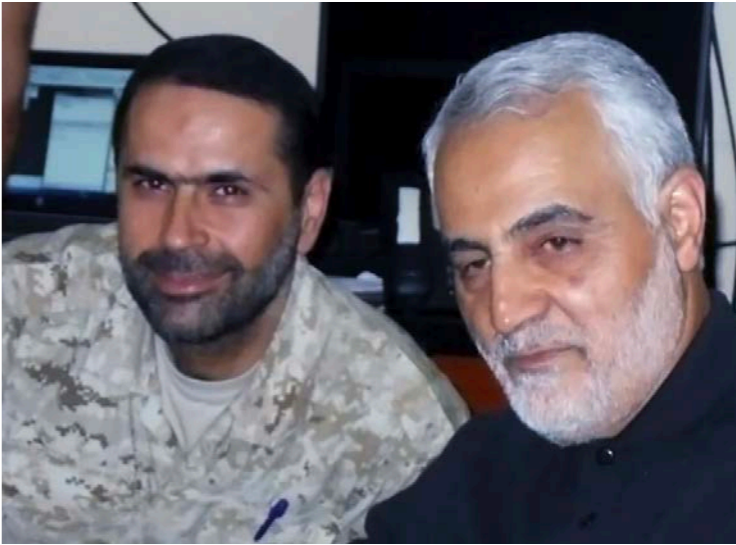


Hezbollah Escalates Israel-Lebanon Border Conflict

*Deputy HAMAS Chairman
Saleh Al-Arouri*



- **January 2, 2024, Deputy Chairman of HAMAS Saleh Al-Arouri was assassinated in Beirut.** He was one of HAMAS’ “most important political leaders and operational commanders. Arouri played hands-on roles both as **a key interlocutor with Hezbollah and Iran** and as an operational commander **overseeing Hamas terrorist plots in the West Bank.**
- In response, on January 6 Hezbollah launched “antitank guided missiles, attack drones, and **no less than 62 rockets against Israel’s northern air control unit** in Mount Meron.”
- **January 8, 2024, IDF assassinated Senior Commander of the Radwan Special Forces of Hezbollah Wissam al-Tawil.**
- In response, Hezbollah attacked the IDF’s Northern Command HQ with attack drones.
- On February 8, 2024, **the IDF struck senior Hezbollah military commander Abbas al Dabs** via drone strike. He coordinated air defense issues with Iran, including in Syria, and commanded a region that fired upon Israel. In response, **Hezbollah launched 30 rockets** at Israel



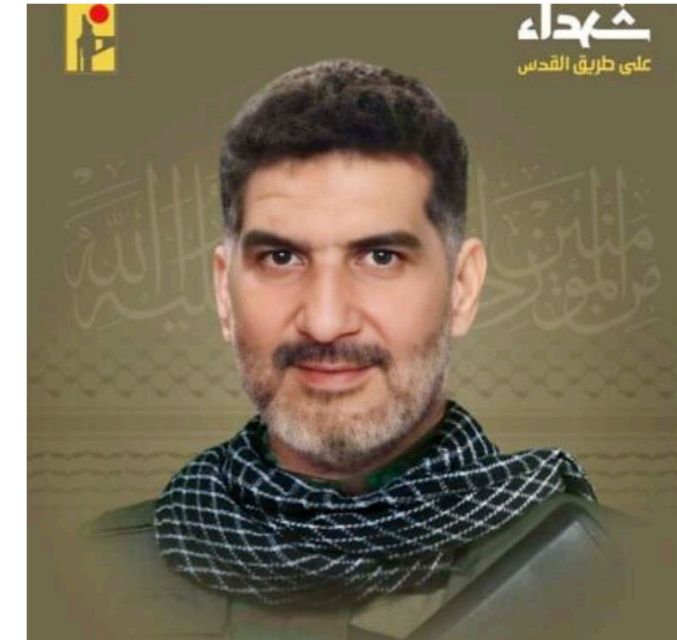
*Hezbollah Commander
Wissam al-Tawil with
Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani*



Hezbollah Escalates Israel-Lebanon Border Conflict

- March 13: IDF drone strike eliminated Hadi Mustafa, senior HAMAS operative who directed terror attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets around the world.
- March 29, IDF assassinated Ali Naim, the Deputy Commander of Hezbollah's rocket unit while in a car in Tyre, Lebanon 13 miles from the Israeli border.
- On many days, Hezbollah has fired up to 100 short-range rockets at Israel. In turn, Israel has struck Hezbollah targets as deep as 60 miles inside Lebanon.
- On March 27, the IDF completed a week long training for commanders of the Northern Command in preparation for war against Hezbollah.

Ali Naim, Deputy Commander of Hezbollah's Rocket Unit



Senior Israeli official, March 28: "**Achieving the strategic goal of the return of northern residents to their homes requires a ground war.** We will do that after Rafah, not simultaneously,"

Hezbollah Escalates Israel-Lebanon Border Conflict

- Sample day: Wednesday March 27
 - **Israeli airstrike 3 miles from the border killed 7 terrorists** from the Palestinian al-Jama'a al-Islamiyya group which was planning an imminent infiltration attack.
 - **Hezbollah launched 30 rockets in response** at Kiryat Shmona community in Israel.
 - IDF later found a **Hezbollah drone that crashed inside Israel** near Rosh Hanikra and then **bombed terrorists inside Lebanon** in Teir Harfa
 - This follows a **pattern of Hezbollah sending Palestinian groups rather than its own people to carry out infiltration attempts, instigating a response by the IDF**. Then, Hezbollah responds to the IDF's response with rockets on an Israeli town or military base.
 - Separately, the IDF's 36th Division conducted a seminar in **preparation for a possible ground offensive in Lebanon**.



More American Support Arrives to the Region



US Announcements

US Visits to Region

- Dec. 14: NSA Sullivan
- Dec. 15: General Kurilla
- Dec. 18: Secretary Austin
- Jan. 9: Secretary Blinken
- Feb. 7: Secretary Blinken
- Feb. 28: General Kurilla
- March 22: Secretary Blinken

- Dec. 9: Sec. Blinken approved the **emergency sale of 13,981 tank munitions to Israel**, after previously requesting approval for the sale of 45,000 shells for IDF Merkava tanks
- Dec. 12: Under Sec. of Def. LaPlante states in Congressional testimony that the **US is surging maintenance and operational support for Israeli F-35A stealth fighter jets**
- Jan. 5: US State Department announces up to **\$10 million reward for information leading to the disruption of HAMAS funding**



US General Kurilla meets IDF Chief of Staff Halevi in Israel 12/15/23



More American Sanctions and Support to the Region



US Announcements

- Dec. 7: US Dept. of Treasury **sanctions** 13 people and companies **related to the financing of Houthis in Yemen.**
- Dec. 13: US Dept. of Treasury **imposed a 4th round of sanctions on HAMAS** since October 7, **targeting a network of HAMAS finance officials in Gaza, the West Bank, Turkey, and Lebanon, including several members of the HAMAS Political Bureau.**
- Dec. 19: US Dept. of Treasury **sanctions** 14 people and companies in Iran, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Indonesia supporting **Iran's IRGC UAV production**
- Dec. 28: US Dept. of Treasury **sanctions** 4 people and companies responsible for **facilitating Iranian funding of Houthi forces**
- Jan. 1: The Pentagon announced that the **USS Ford aircraft carrier strike group would leave the Middle East**, replaced by 3 warships from the Red Sea.
- Jan. 12: US Dept. of Treasury **sanctions 2 companies for shipping Iranian commodities on behalf of IRGC-backed Houthi financial facilitator** in Hong Kong and the UAE.



More American Sanctions and Support to the Region



US Announcements

- Jan. 22: US Dept. of Treasury **imposed a 5th round of sanctions on HAMAS** since October 7, **targeting a network of HAMAS-affiliated money exchanges** in Gaza and those **who facilitated the transfer of funds from IRGC to HAMAS**. These sanctions were imposed concurrently with the UK and Australia.
- Jan. 25: US Dept. of Treasury **sanctioned the Houthi Minister of Defense, Navy Commander, Director of the Houthi Navy College, and the Director of Procurement of Houthi armed forces**
- Jan. 31: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned 3 entities and one individual for **providing financial support to IRGC and Hezbollah**.
- Feb. 2: US Dept. of Treasury **sanctioned six officials in the IRGC Cyber-Electronic Command** responsible for a series of malicious cyber activities against critical infrastructure in the US via Israeli technology. It also sanctioned **a network of suppliers in Iran and Hong Kong that supported Iran's ballistic missile and UAV programs.**



More American Sanctions and Support to the Region



US Announcements

- Feb. 27: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned the **Deputy Commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Force-Qods Force**, a Houthi member, and a company owning a vessel used to ship Iranian commodities to support the Houthis and IRGC.
- Feb. 27: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned two companies owning and operating **a vessel that shipped over \$100M in Iranian commodities to China** on behalf of Iran’s Ministry of Defense.
- March 6: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned two companies owning and operating **two vessels that shipped Iranian commodities** on behalf of Iran’s IRGC Quds Force backed Houthi financier.
- March 15: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned a company owning and operating **a vessel that shipped Iranian commodities to China** on behalf of Iran’s IRGC Quds Force backed Houthi financier.
- March 26: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned 6 entities, two tankers, and one individual involved with **Iranian commodity sales to China supporting the Houthis and crypto-currency funding of Hezbollah.**
- March 27: US Dept. of Treasury, alongside the UK, **imposed a 6th round of sanctions on HAMAS** since October 7, **targeting a network of HAMAS-affiliated social media campaigns “GazaNow” and its founder Mustafa Ayash, and other partners**



An Emboldened Iran Pursues Nuclear Weapons

Dec. 18: Nearly 70% of Iran’s gas stations went out of service following possible sabotage – a reference to cyberattacks, Iranian state TV reported.

Dec. 28 Statement from US, UK, Germany and France :

“The 26 December 2023 report by the IAEA highlights that **Iran has increased its rate of production of uranium enriched up to 60%** at Natanz and Fordow to levels observed between January and June 2023. **These findings represent a backwards step by Iran and will result in Iran tripling its monthly production rate of uranium enriched up to 60%.** We condemn this action, which adds to the unabated escalation of Iran’s nuclear programme. **The production of high-enriched uranium by Iran has no credible civilian justification...**”

Feb. 7: Non-partisan Institute for Science and International Security publishes its findings showing that **“Iran’s nuclear weapons capabilities are more dangerous than they have ever been,” with the ability to produce enough weapon-grade enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon in a week,** and could produce a total of 6 nuclear bombs in a month.”



Tower 22 - Attack and Response

- Jan. 28: **Three US soldiers were killed and 40 wounded in an attack by an Iranian proxy militia in Iraq** (Kataib Hezbollah).
- Context: Over 160 strikes directed at U.S. military bases in the region since October 7, but without any direct casualties prior to January 28. **The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of Iran-backed armed groups in the region, claimed the Jan. 28 attack** saying it was in response to US support for Israel’s war on Gaza.
- Response: **US struck 85 targets in Iraq and Syria belonging to Kataib Hezbollah and to the IRGC**, including command centers, missile and drone facilities, and logistical facilities.
- Feb. 7 Assassination: A senior commander from Kataib Hezbollah responsible for “directly planning and participating in attacks” on American troops was killed via US Special Operations drone strike.

Tower 22: US military base in northeast Jordan with 350 soldiers that is close to a US-backed Syrian rebel group and near the border of Syria and Iraq.



Israeli Special Forces Rescue 2 Hostages Alive, 1 Dead

- On Monday February 12, Israeli special forces rescued two hostages, Fernando Simon Marian (61) and Louis Har (70), both Israeli-Argentinian men
 - They stormed the 2nd floor a heavily guarded apartment in Rafah (southern Gaza)
 - HAMAS guards were eliminated as Israeli forces shielded the hostages with their bodies
 - The hostages were escorted out under fire from HAMAS to an IDF helicopter inside Gaza that flew them to a hospital in Israel
- **April 6: IDF recovers the body of hostage Elad Katzir in Southern Gaza who was murdered while in captivity**



Fernando Simon Marian reunites with his family in Israel

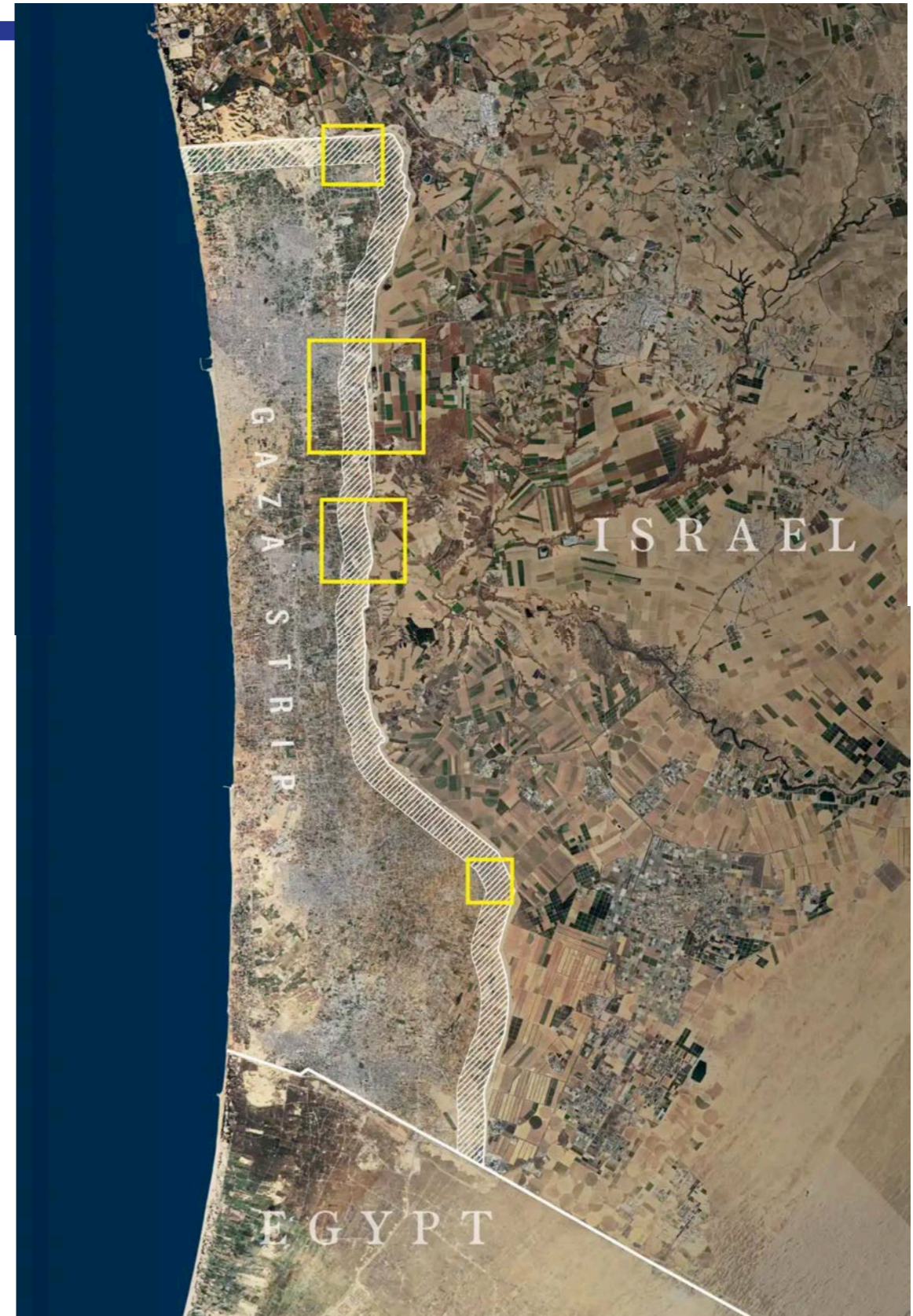


Louis Har reunites with his family in Israel



IDF Clearing Buffer Zone Between Gaza and Southern Israel

- In an effort to prevent new attacks from Gaza, the **IDF cleared areas near the Gaza-Israel border to create a 1km (0.6 mile) buffer zone inside the Gaza Strip.**
- This is believed to be **an effort to allow Israelis in south to securely move back to their homes**, although Israel has not publicly spoken about buffer zone plans.



IDF Retakes Shifa Hospital Complex

- On Monday March 18, the **IDF began a two-week operation to retake Shifa Hospital** complex after intelligence suggested that **senior HAMAS terrorists had regrouped inside the hospital**. The first operation there occurred in November.
- **CNN** reported that its sources inside the hospital claimed “about 400 to 500 Hamas and Islamic Jihad members and their families arrived at the hospital in mid-March. Some of them appeared to be members of Hamas’ political branch, while others were armed militants.”
- Since March 18, HAMAS and other Palestinian terrorist groups at Shifa conducted over 70 attacks on Israeli forces inside and around Shifa Hospital complex.
- The **IDF killed ~200 terrorists in and around Shifa Hospital** complex while the terrorists were firing at IDF soldiers, including **many senior HAMAS and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists and many terrorists who were personally involved in the October 7 massacre**.
- The IDF killed Raad Thabet, a top-ten HAMAS commander in charge of recruitment and procurement, as well as two senior terrorists who had been released by Israel in a previous deal with HAMAS.



IDF Retakes Shifa Hospital Complex

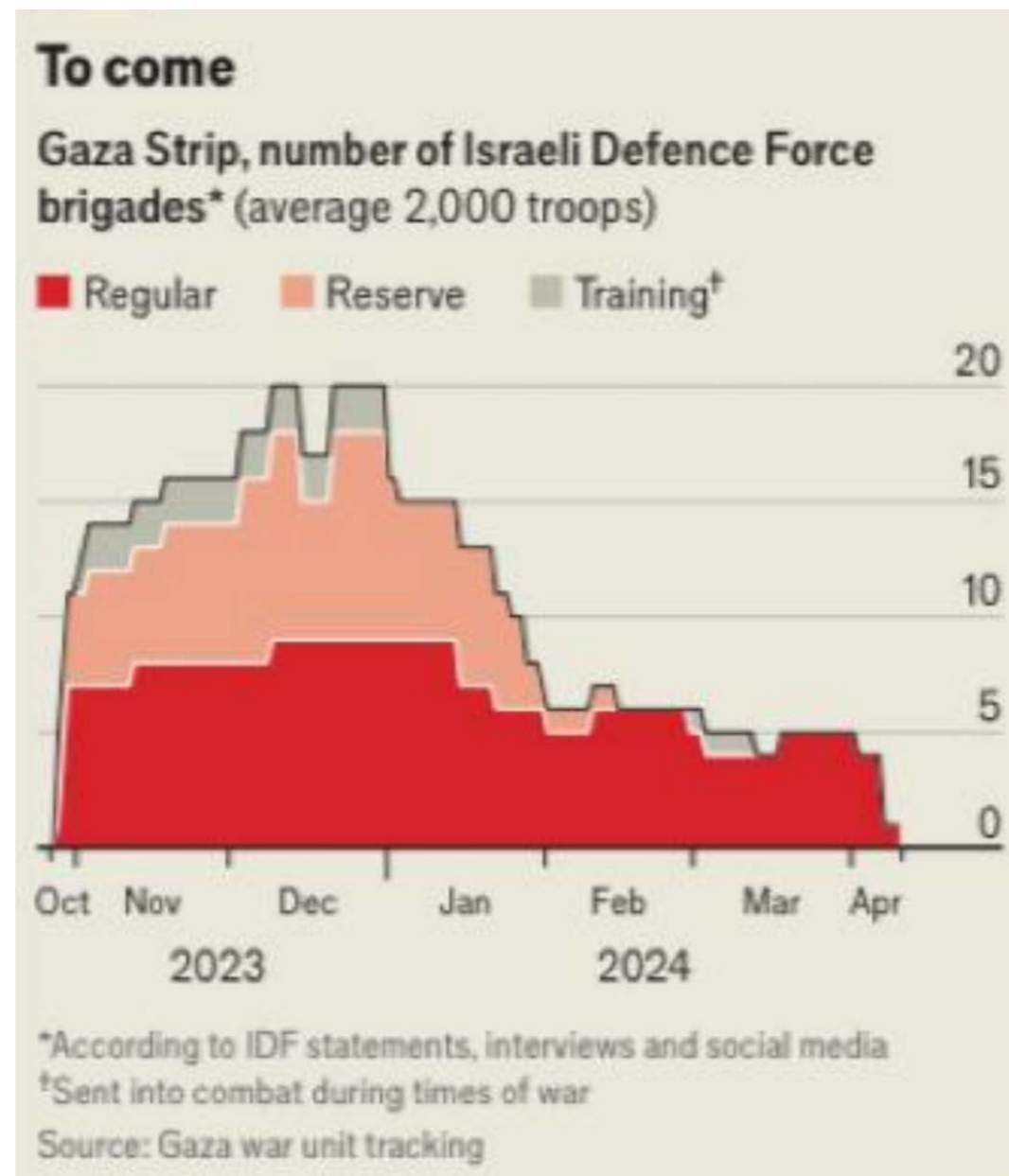
- US National Security Advisor confirmed on March 18 that "HAMAS came back into Shifa."
- The IDF interrogated more than 500 terrorist suspects (of 900 suspects detained) from Shifa Hospital complex. Over 500 of the suspects captured were confirmed members of terror groups.
- During the operation, the IDF distributed food, water, and over 10,000 medical supplies, as well as creating a new treatment area for patients of the hospital and fixing the electricity.
- The IDF uncovered an arsenal of weapons at Shifa Hospital, including an array of weapons concealed inside pillows, hospital beds, ceilings, and walls including mortar shells, explosives, sniper rifles, pistols, and ammunition. **The IDF also found over 11,000,000 NIS (~\$3M) in cash held by HAMAS.**
- HAMAS itself claimed it fired mortars at Shifa Hospital and it committed a suicide bombing, causing extensive damage to the hospital. The IDF evacuated 6,2000 civilians sheltering at Shifa Hospital throughout the operation.

Weapons discovered in the Shifa Hospital maternity ward



April 7 Withdrawal of IDF Troops from Southern Gaza

- 6 months after the war began, IDF's 98th Division withdrew from Khan Younis in Southern Gaza



Phase 5: UNRWA

A Compromised Aid Organization



UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

- Background: UNRWA was established during the 1948 war between Israel and its Arab neighbors. **It was supposed to receive the approximately 700,000 Arab refugees from the war, sustain them and prepare them for new lives.**
- What Happened: “What UNRWA actually did was entrench their refugee status as permanent. A separate UN organization, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), caters to the needs of all other refugees around the world. **UNRWA supports 5.4 million alleged Palestinian refugees whereas UNHCR supports more than 70 million refugees from other nations. Yet the budget per person for UNRWA is almost double that of UNHCR.** Furthermore, UNRWA has approximately one staff member per 180 alleged refugees, whereas UNHCR has a staff of approximately one per approximately 4,200 refugees. If the UN’s own rules were applied, most of the alleged refugees would not be considered refugees. Any UNHCR refugee who receives citizenship from another country automatically loses refugee status.
- Education: Prior to October 7, it was well documented that **UNRWA schools glorified terrorists, encouraged violence against Israel**, encouraged martyrdom, demonized Israel, rejected Israel’s right to exist and promoted antisemitism.



UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

- Leading Up to October 7: A UN report found that **UNRWA schools were used to store weapons and launch attacks** against Israel between 2012 and 2014. UNRWA facilities, believed to be immune from Israeli attack, were used by HAMAS to house tunnels, weapons and command and control centers. **Under UNRWA’s headquarters in Gaza, a massive HAMAS complex was discovered by the IDF** - including large quantities of guns, grenades, bombs as well as servers and electrical infrastructure. UNRWA supplied this HAMAS underground complex with electricity. US government acknowledged that HAMAS stole cement, construction material, and money meant for UNRWA and built hundreds of miles of tunnels underneath Gaza.
- October 7: 14 UNRWA staff were actively involved in committing the 7 October massacre and approximately one in ten employees of UNRWA in Gaza are members of HAMAS. A former senior UN official acknowledged **HAMAS’ “infiltration” of UNRWA.** On October 27, HAMAS launched rockets from inside and near UNRWA facilities - part of a systemic use of UN facilities in Gaza by HAMAS. Still, it is the main provider of food, water, and shelter to Palestinians during the current war. The IDF declassified an intercepted call with an UNRWA teacher admitting to his participation on October 7.



Click to watch Reuters footage reveal HAMAS infrastructure under UNRWA headquarters in Gaza



UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

- Response: **Over 18 countries suspended their funding of UNRWA.** These countries collectively provide about two-thirds of UNRWA's budget. Of the top ten donors to UNRWA, only one is an Arab state (Saudi Arabia) and one other is a non-Arab Muslim state (Turkey).

"It would put our staff in jeopardy to call out HAMAS for use of our buildings or schools," a U.N. official told CBS News, speaking on condition that he remain anonymous. A second senior U.N. official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive topic, told CBS News: **"Of course, we assume that HAMAS is using U.N. facilities in one way or another; it uses mosques, hospitals, schools, and those all should have extra protection status under international law."**



Cables running from UNRWA headquarters above ground down into underground HAMAS data center.



IDF revealed an underground HAMAS data center, directly beneath UNRWA headquarters in Gaza, used for intelligence and communications.



UNRWA Funding

Stopped funding through March 2025

Paused or reviewing funding

Continuing funding

United States \$344M	Germany \$202M			Sweden \$61M				
	EU institutions* \$114M			Norway \$34M	Saudi Arabia \$27M			
	Japan \$30M		France \$29M		Turkey \$25M	Canada \$24M		
	Switz. \$26M		Netherlands \$21M	Italy \$18M		Denmark \$16M	Austral. \$14M	Belg. \$12M
			United Kingdom \$21M		Other \$62M		Kuw. \$12M	
			Other \$10M		Qatar \$11M			

*The European Commission is providing 50 million euros of its 2024 funding to UNRWA and will provide the remaining 32 million euros depending on the findings of current investigations.

Note: "Paused or reviewing funding" includes governments that have paused funding or declared that future funding will depend on the findings of current investigations.



Phase 5: Escalating Red Sea Attacks

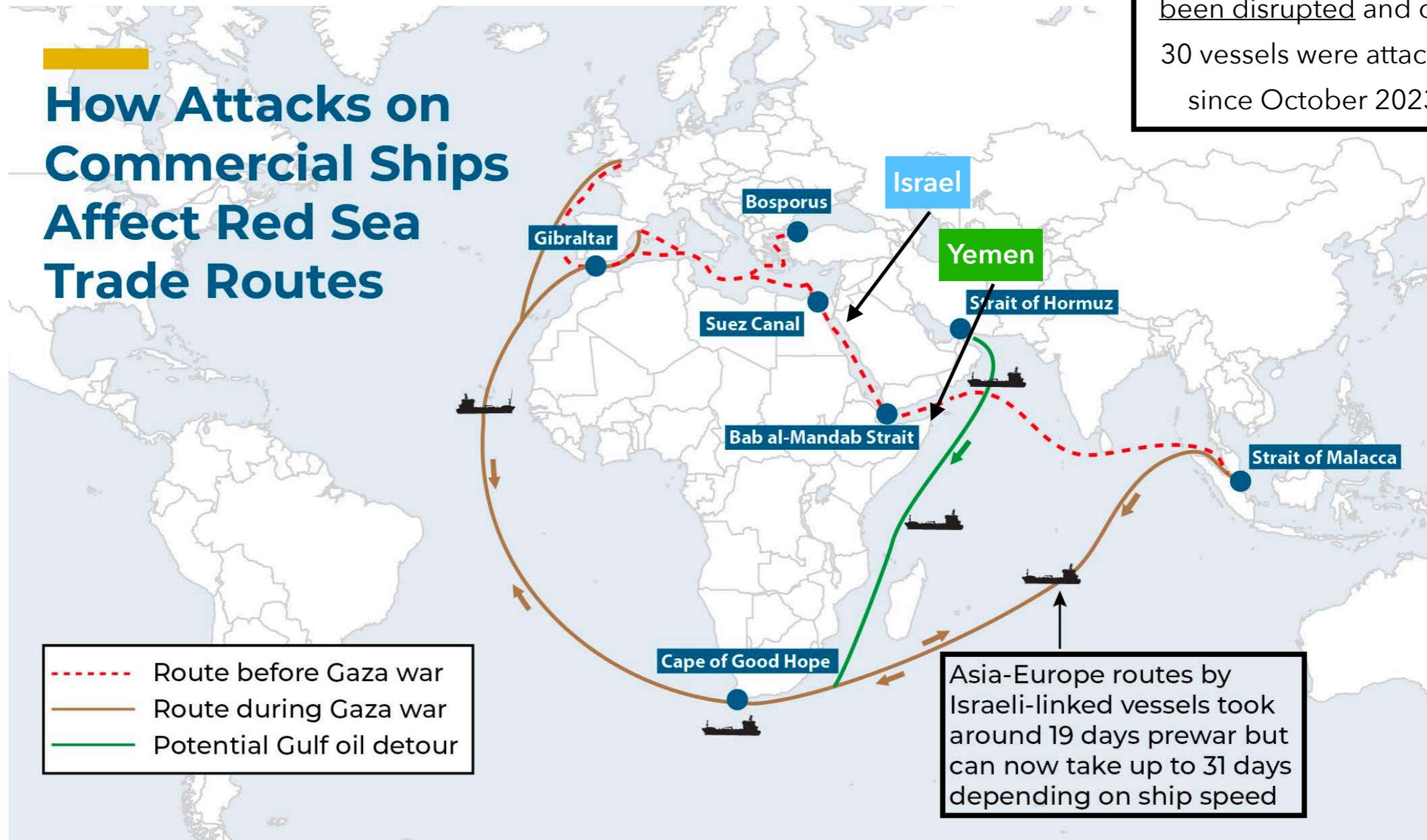
Increasing Houthi Conflict



Houthi Attacks in the Red Sea Increase

20% of global shipping has been disrupted and over 30 vessels were attacked since October 2023.

How Attacks on Commercial Ships Affect Red Sea Trade Routes



Secretary Blinken: **“More than a dozen shipping companies have had to reroute thousands of vessels around the Cape of Good Hope.”**



Diplomatic Road Yields Military Action Against the Houthis

- Dec. 1: **UN Security Council members statement** condemns “in the strongest terms recent Houthi attacks against a commercial vessel in the Red Sea... They demanded that all such attacks and action cease immediately... They underlined the importance of the navigational rights and freedoms of all vessels in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea.”
- Dec. 12: **The Israeli Navy dispatched a Sa’ar 6-class Corvette ship to the Red Sea**
- Dec. 15: Major international shipping companies **Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd suspend vessels’ passage through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait**, the critical connecting point between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea via the Dead Sea and Suez Canal.
- Dec. 18: **US led efforts to create an international coalition to protect ships** entering the Red Sea, called Operation Prosperity Guardian, a defensive coalition of over 20 countries operating in the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandeb Strait, and Gulf of Aden.
- Dec. 19: **Joint statement from the US, EU, and NATO** representing 44 allied nations including Yemen condemns “Houthi interference with navigational rights and freedoms in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula, particularly the Red Sea.” Secretary of Defense also hosts a virtual ministerial with Ministers and Chiefs of Defense from 43 countries to discuss the Houthis.



Diplomatic Road Yields Military Action Against the Houthis

- **Dec. 27: Shipping giant Maersk returns** to direct its vessels through the Red Sea
- **Jan 3: US, UK and 12 other countries issue warning** to Houthis against further attacks, saying the Houthis “will bear the responsibility of the consequences should they continue”
- **Jan. 10: UN Security Council passes a resolution** condemning “in the strongest terms” the multiple attacks by Houthi rebels off the coast of Yemen which have disrupted global trade and raised fears of further spillover from the war in Gaza.
- **Jan. 11: the US, UK, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, and Bahrain launched targeted attacks on Houthi military targets in Yemen**, including radar systems, air defense systems, and storage and launch sites for UAVs and missiles. The objective was announced as specifically to degrade their capability to attack vessels in the Red Sea.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

Speaking in Tel Aviv, US NSA Jake Sullivan said, **“While the Houthis are pulling the trigger, so to speak, they’re being handed the gun by Iran.”**

- Dec. 3: **Four attacks against three commercial vessels** by Houthis in the Red Sea, USS Carney responded to the incidents including destroying Houthi attack drones
- Dec. 9: French Navy shot down **two Houthi drones** in the Red Sea
- Dec. 11: **Houthi missile hits tanker**, USS Mason responds
- Dec. 13: USS Mason **prevented Houthis from boarding a tanker**, intercepts Houthi drone en route to the USS Mason
- Dec. 14: **ballistic missile fired by Houthis** at shipping lane
- Dec. 15: Houthi **attacks on two ships with drones and ballistic missiles**
- Dec. 16: USS Carney intercepts a **wave of 14 attack drones** launched by the Houthis
- Dec. 18: Houthis launch **attack drone and anti-ship ballistic missile** at commercial vessel
- Dec. 23: Houthis launch **2 anti-ship ballistic missiles and 4 attack drones** into the Red Sea
- Dec. 26: US intercepts **a wave of 12 attack drones, 3 anti-ship ballistic missiles, and 2 cruise missiles** launched by Houthis
- Dec. 28: USS Mason shot down a **Houthi drone and a Houthi anti-ship ballistic missile** in the Red Sea
- Dec. 30: USS Gravely shoots down **2 anti-ship ballistic missiles** while responding to Houthi attack on merchant vessel
- Dec. 31: **4 small Houthi vessels attack a commercial vessel** and US helicopters. 3 of 4 boats were sunk, 1 fled.
- Jan. 2: Houthis launch **2 anti-ship ballistic missiles** into the Red Sea
- Jan. 6: **Houthi UAV** shot down by USS Laboon
- **Jan. 9:** **Houthis fired no less than 18 UAVs, two anti-ship cruise missiles, and one ballistic missile. All were shot down.**
- Jan. 11: Houthis fired an **anti-ship ballistic missile**. 30 minutes later, the US-led attack on the Houthis began



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- Jan. 11: **US Navy SEALs intercept ship from Iran transporting advanced missile components** to resupply Houthi forces. Two Navy SEALs went missing at sea in this operation.



- Jan. 12: US forces **strike a Houthi radar site** in Yemen.
- Jan. 14: **Houthis fire a missile at USS Laboon** ship in Red Sea. No injuries or damage.
- Jan. 15: **Houthis fired two missiles** at the Red Sea, one struck an American container ship. In response, US Forces struck and destroyed four Houthi missiles prepared to launch from Yemen.
- Jan. 16: **Houthis launched a missile and struck a merchant ship.**
- Jan. 17: **Houthis launched an attack on an American bulk carrier merchant ship.** No injuries and some damage was reported. **US Forces preemptively struck 14 Houthi missiles** that were loaded to be fired in Houthi areas of Yemen.

- Jan. 18: **US Forces struck two Houthi missiles** aimed at the Red Sea and were prepared to launch from Yemen. **Houthis launched two missiles at an American tanker ship** with no reported injuries or damages.
- Jan. 19: **US Forces preemptively struck three Houthi missiles** that were aimed at the Red Sea and prepared to launch from Yemen.
- Jan. 20: **US Forces preemptively struck a Houthi missile** aimed at the Gulf of Aden and was prepared to launch from Yemen.
- Jan. 22: US Forces alongside UK Armed Forces and with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada and the Netherlands **struck 8 Houthi targets in Yemen, including missile systems and launchers, air defense systems, radars, and weapons storage facilities.**
- Jan. 24: **US Forces preemptively struck two Houthi missiles** aimed at the Red Sea and were prepared to launch from Yemen. **Houthis fired 3 missiles at an American container ship** in the Gulf of Aden, two of the missiles were shot down by US Forces with no reported injuries or damage to the container ship.
- Jan. 26: **USS Carney intercepted a missile** fired at it by Houthis. A **Houthi-fired missile struck and damaged an oil tanker** in the Gulf of Aden. A joint firefighting effort included the US, French, and Indian navies.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- Jan. 27: **US Forces preemptively struck a Houthi missile** aimed at the Gulf of Aden and was prepared to launch from Yemen.

- Jan. 28: **US Navy SEALs intercept ship from Iran transporting over 200 packages with advanced missile components** to resupply Houthi forces.

- Jan. 30: The **USS Gravelly shot down a Houthi-fired missile** in the Red Sea.

- Jan. 31: **US Forces destroyed a Houthi surface-to-air missile** prepared to launch from Yemen.

- Jan. 31: **USS Carney intercepted a Houthi missile** fired towards the Gulf of Aden.

- Feb. 1: **US Forces struck an Iranian-backed Houthi UAV ground control station and 10 Houthi attack drones.** US Forces also shot down a UAV over the Gulf of Aden and struck an unmanned attack surface vehicle in the Red Sea. **Two Houthi missiles were fired at a ship in the Red Sea** with no injuries or damages reported.



- Feb. 2: **USS Carney shot down one UAV** the Gulf of Aden. Then, **US Forces struck 4 Houthi UAVs** that were prepared to launch in Yemen. In addition, **USS Laboon and F-18s from Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group shot down 7 UAVs** over the Red Sea.

- Feb. 3: **US Forces struck 6 Houthi missiles** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea. Later, with support from the UK Armed Forces, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, and New Zealand, **US Forces struck 36 Houthi targets** at 13 locations in Yemen. The targets included storage facilities, command and control centers, missile systems, UAV sites, radars and helicopters.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- Feb. 4: **US Forces struck a Houthi missile** prepared to launch. Later, **US Forces struck 4 more Houthi missiles** prepared to launch.
- Feb. 5: **US Forces struck two Houthi explosive unmanned surface vehicles** in Yemen prepared to launch.
- Feb. 6: **Houthis fired 6 missiles from Yemen** towards the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Three were attempting to hit a bulk carrier merchant ship, causing minor damage, and three were attempting to hit a cargo ship without damage.
- Feb. 7: **US Forces struck 2 Houthi missiles** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea. In addition, **US Forces struck another Houthi missile** prepared to launch.
- Feb. 8: **US Forces conducted 7 strikes against four Houthi unmanned surface vehicles and seven missiles** that were prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 9: **US Forces struck 5 Houthi missiles and 2 unmanned surface vessels** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 10: **US Forces struck 3 Houthi missiles and 2 unmanned surface vessels** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 12: **Houthis fired 2 missiles from Yemen** towards the Bab al-Mandeb. They were attempting to hit a cargo vessel ship carrying Brazilian corn to Iran, causing minor damage.
- Feb. 13: **US Forces struck a Houthi missile** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea. In addition, the Houthis launched a ballistic missile into the Gulf of Aden with no damage to any ships in the area.
- Feb. 14: **US Forces struck 7 Houthi missiles, 3 UAVs, and one explosive unmanned surface vessel** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 15: **Houthis fired a missile from Yemen** into the Gulf of Aden. The missile caused minor damage to a UK-owned bulk carrier. In addition, **US Forces struck 3 Houthi missiles** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 16: **Houthis fired 4 missiles from Yemen** towards the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Three were attempting to hit a commercial vessel, causing no damage. In addition, **US Forces struck a Houthi missile and an unmanned surface vessel** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 17: **US Forces struck 3 Houthi missiles, an unmanned surface vessel, and - for the first observed deployment - an unmanned underwater vessel** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.



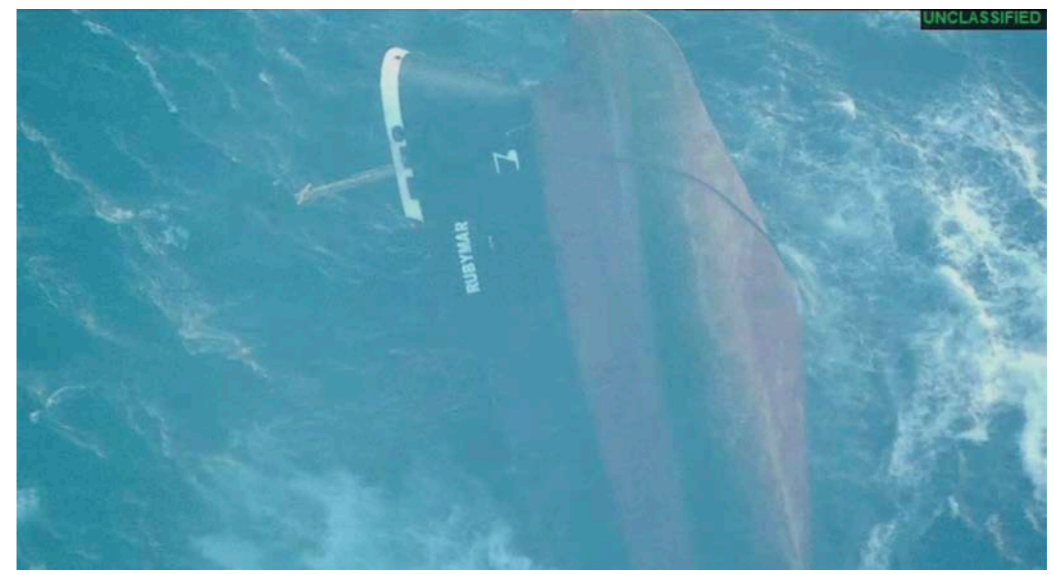
Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- **Feb. 18: Houthis fired 2 missiles from Yemen** towards the Red Sea. They hit a bulk carrier merchant ship, causing damage and an 18 mile oil slick. The crew evacuated to safety.
- **Feb. 19: Houthis fired 3 missiles from Yemen, including 2 towards a carrier in the Gulf of Aden carrying humanitarian aid to Yemen**, causing minor damage. **US Forces also struck a Houthi surface-to-air missile launcher** in Yemen prepared to launch. Later, a Houthi one-way attack (OWA) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) struck a bulk carrier causing minor damages and **US Forces destroyed a Houthi OWA UAV** in Yemen prepared to launch at ships in the Red Sea.
- **Feb. 20: US and coalition aircraft and warships shot down 10 one-way attack (OWA) unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.** In addition, the USS Laboon shot down a missile fired in its direction.
- **Feb. 21: US Forces struck 7 Houthi missiles and one missile launcher** prepared to strike the Red Sea. Later, US Forces struck down a one-way attack unmanned aircraft aerial system in self defense.
- **Feb. 22: US and coalition forces shot down 6 Houthi OWA UAVs** in the Red Sea. The Houthis fired two missiles into the Gulf of Aden causing minor damage to a cargo carrier. Later, the US Forces struck down 4 Houthi UAVs and 2 missiles.
- **Feb. 23: US Forces shot down 3 Houthi OWA UAVs** near several commercial ships in the Red Sea with no damages and struck 7 Houthi missiles prepared to launch.
- **Feb. 24: USS Mason shot down a Houthi missile targeting a US oil tanker.** In addition, US Forces alongside UK Armed Forces and with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark the Netherlands, and New Zealand **struck 18 Houthi targets in Yemen, including weapons storage facilities, one-way attack unmanned aerial systems, air defense systems, radars, and a helicopter.** Houthis also **launched a missile at a US chemical/oil tanker** with no damages and US Forces shot down two one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicles over the Red Sea in self-defense. A third Houthi UAV crashed from in-flight failure.
- **Feb. 26: US Forces destroyed 3 unmanned surface vessels, 2 missiles, and a one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicle** fired by the Houthis over the Red Sea.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- Feb. 27: **US Forces shot down 5 Houthi one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicles** in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 29: **US Forces struck 6 Houthi missiles prepared to launch in the Red Sea and a UAV over the Red Sea.**
- March 1: **US Forces struck a Houthi missile** that was prepared to launch towards the Red Sea. The Houthis also launched another missile into the Red Sea that did not damage any vessel.
- March 4: **Houthis fired 3 missiles from Yemen** towards the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, damaging a container vessel ship. **US Forces struck 2 Houthi missiles** that were prepared to launch towards the Red Sea.
- March 5: **US Forces shot down one missile and 3 OWA UAS launched by the Houthis.** Later, US Forces destroyed 3 missiles and 3 USVs prepared to launch in Yemen.



The Rubymar cargo ship was carrying fertilizer when it was attacked by 2 Houthis missiles on February 18. On March 1, it was confirmed as **the first ship sunk by the Houthis** since October 7, 2023.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- March 6: A Houthi missile struck the bulk carrier True Confidence, causing 3 fatalities and 4 injuries amongst the crew. In addition, **US Forces struck 2 Houthi UAVs prepared to launch from Yemen.**
- March 8: **US Forces struck 2 Houthi missiles prepared to launch in the Red Sea** as the Houthis fired 2 missiles at a vessel, with no damage.
- March 9: **US and Coalition Forces shot down 28 OWA UAVs fired by Houthis** into the Red Sea.
- March 11: Houthis fired 2 missiles in the Red Sea at the merchant vessel Pinocchio with no damages reported. **US Forces conducted 6 strikes, destroying 18 Houthi missiles and a UAV prepared to launch at the Red Sea from Yemen.**
- March 14: **Houthis fired 2 missiles from Yemen to the Gulf of Aden and 2 towards the Red Sea**, causing no damage. **US Forces also struck 9 Houthi missiles and 2 UAVs** in Yemen prepared to launch.
- March 15: **Houthis fired 3 missiles from Yemen** towards the Red Sea with no damages.
- March 16: **Houthis fired 2 UAVs from Yemen** towards the Red Sea. US Forces shot one down. **US Forces also struck 5 Houthi USVs and 1 UAV** in Yemen prepared to launch.
- March 18: **US Forces struck 7 Houthi missiles, 3 UAVs, and 3 weapons storage containers** in Yemen in self defense.
- March 19: **Houthi missile penetrates Israeli air space** and lands north of Eilat, causing no damage.



March 6 Houthi attack on the True Confidence ship led to the **first civilian casualties of the Houthi Red Sea attacks** since October 7 2023.

Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- March 20: **US and Coalition Forces shot down 1 UAV and 1 USV launched by Houthis at the Red Sea.**
- March 21: **Coalition Forces shot down 1 USV and 2 missiles fired by Houthis at the Red Sea.**
- March 22: **US Forces struck 4 Houthi UAVs in Yemen prepared to launch at the Red Sea.** The Houthis fired 4 missiles into the Red Sea with no damages reported. In addition, US Forces struck 3 Houthi underground storage facilities in Yemen.
- March 23: **Houthis fired 5 missiles into the Red Sea** in the vicinity of a Chinese oil tanker, causing minimal damage. US Forces including the USS Carney engaged 6 Houthi UAVs over the Red Sea, downing five as one returned to Yemen.
- March 27: **US Forces destroyed 4 Houthi UASs fired at a US warship in the Red Sea.**
- March 28: **US Forces destroyed 4 Houthi UASs fired at a coalition vessel and a US warship in the Red Sea.**
- March 30: **US Forces destroyed 2 Houthi UASs over the Red Sea and on the ground prepared to launch.**
- April 1: **US Forces destroyed a USV fired by the Houthis at the Red Sea**
- April 3: **US Forces destroyed an anti-ship ballistic missile and 2 UAS launched by the Houthis towards the USS Gravelly** and attacked a mobile surface-to-air missile system in Houthi territory.
- April 4: **US Forces struck a Houthi anti-ship missile** in Yemen in self defense.
- April 6: US Forces destroyed **one Houthi mobile surface-to-air missile system, one Houthi unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), and one Houthi inbound anti-ship missile.**



Phase 5: Humanitarian Efforts

Increasing Aid to Gaza



Israel & World Increase Humanitarian Efforts Post-Cease Fire

- By the 175th day of the war, Israel inspected **over 19,500 trucks of humanitarian aid for Gaza, carrying >350,000 tons** of aid
- On December 15th, **Israel re-opened the Kerem Shalom border between Israel and Gaza** to allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza after opening the crossing on Dec. 12 for aid inspection
- **IDF continued to use tactical operational pauses to allow humanitarian aid** to be transferred within Gaza
- **3 more field hospitals were operational**, alongside the field hospitals of the Kingdom of Jordan (41 beds) and UAE (200, pictured right) already operating inside Gaza. France and Italy have sent floating hospitals to Egypt to accept injured Gazans. The UAE operates a floating hospital in El-Arish Egypt for injured Gazans.
- IDF evacuation notices to Gazans were more precise with neighborhood-specific maps (pictured below)

Over 200 humanitarian aid trucks enter Gaza daily, including tankers with fuel and cooking gas

Bakeries in Gaza produced **over 2.5 million pitas and breads per day** and Israel is **enabling the Palestinian private sector to import food**, improving quality and quantity of food



US Military Leads Airdrops Over North Gaza

- March 2: **US Air Force (USAF) and the Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) dropped over 38,000 meals** into Gaza. In the last week, over 300 packages of humanitarian aid was airdropped over Gaza. (pictured to the right)
- On March 3, **over 275 trucks of humanitarian aid entered Gaza**, the most in one day since the start of the war.
- March 5: **USAF and RJAF dropped over 36,000 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- March 7: **USAF and RJAF dropped over 36,000 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- March 8: **USAF and RJAF dropped over 11,500 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- March 8: US DOD announced it will “undertake an emergency mission to establish a temporary pier on the coast of Gaza to deliver up to 2M humanitarian aid meals per day.” US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff later said on March 28 that Israel committed to help protect US troops traveling to build and operate a floating dock to transport aid into Gaza.
- March 9: **USAF dropped over 41,400 meals and 23,000 bottles of water** into Northern Gaza.



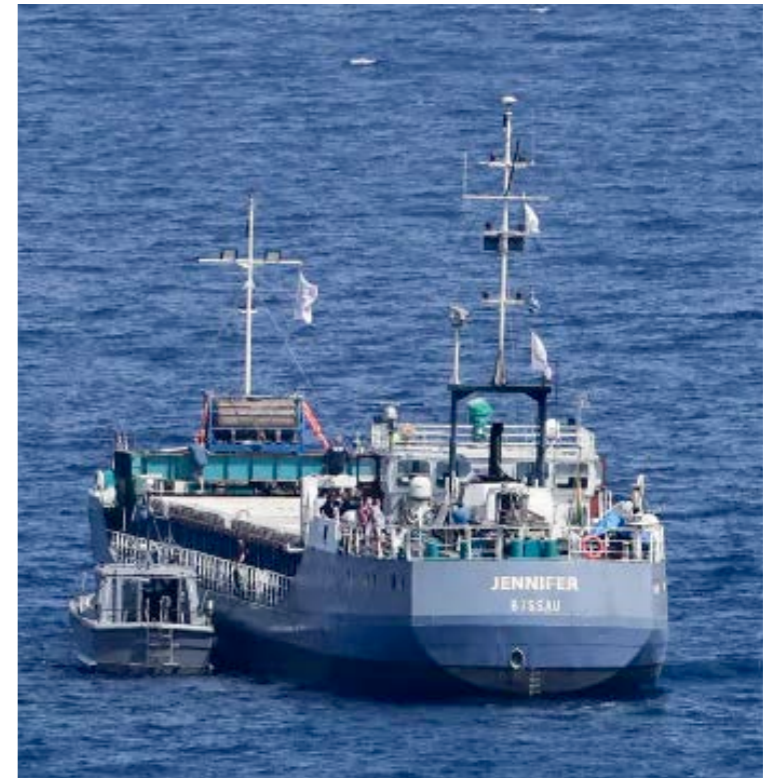
US Military Leads Airdrops Over North Gaza

- March 10: **USAF and RJAF dropped over 11,500 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- March 11: **USAF and RJAF dropped over 27,600 meals and 25,900 bottles** of water into Northern Gaza.
- March 12: **USAF and RJAF dropped over 5,280 pounds of food** (rice, flour, pasta and canned food) into Northern Gaza.
- March 13: World Central Kitchen built a jetty in Northern Gaza to receive shipments of aid from the sea. A ship funded by the UAE carried supplies for World Central Kitchen from Cyprus to the jetty carrying **just under 500,000 meals**.
- March 13: Israel facilitates humanitarian aid deliveries directly from Israel into Northern Gaza of World Food Program trucks. Israel also **transferred 40 tons of aid from Morocco** to Kerem Shalom crossing.
- March 15: **USAF dropped over 35,700 meals and 31,800 bottles of water**, the 11th air drop of humanitarian assistance into Northern Gaza.
- March 16: IDF escorts **convoy of 12 aid trucks** to Northern Gaza
- March 16: **USAF and RJAF dropped sixteen 375-pound bundles of rice, flour, milk, pasta, and canned food** into Northern Gaza.



US Military Leads Airdrops Over North Gaza

- March 17: **USAF** dropped over **28,800 meals** and **34,500 bottles of water** into Northern Gaza.
- March 20: **USAF** and **RJAF** dropped **6,000 pounds of rice, flour, milk, pasta, and canned food** into Northern Gaza.
- March 21: **USAF** dropped over **50,600 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- March 24: **USAF** and **RJAF** dropped **13,080 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- March 25: **USAF** dropped over **46,000 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- March 29: The ship Jennifer prepared to depart Cyprus for Gaza, the second ship of aid delivered by the World Central Kitchen. **It carried 400 tons of food (image top right).**
- March 29: Second shipment of aid from the World Central Kitchen was ready to leave Cyprus for Gaza, including **400 tons of food** including rice, pasta, flour, canned vegetables, and proteins - double the amount of the March 13 shipment.
- March 29: **USAF** dropped over **46,000 meals** into Northern Gaza (image bottom right)



US Military Leads Airdrops Over North Gaza

- March 31: **USAF** dropped over **50,000 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- April 1: **USAF** and **RJAF** dropped **25,344 meal equivalents** including rice, flour, milk, pasta, and canned food into Northern Gaza.
- April 2: **USAF** dropped over **50,680 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- April 3: **USAF** and **RJAF** dropped **38,000 meal equivalents** into Northern Gaza.
- April 4: **USAF** dropped over **50,680 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- April 7: **USAF** and **RJAF** dropped **38,000 meal equivalents** into Northern Gaza.



Humanitarian Snapshot

■ On April 10

- 298 trucks of aid inspected by IDF and transferred to Gaza
- Content of 600 aid trucks still waiting to be picked up by UN aid agencies on Gaza side of Kerem Shalom crossing
- 340 aid packages with hundreds of thousands of meals airdropped
- 4 tankers of cooking gas entered Gaza

■ Total as of April 1

- 6,100 humanitarian operations inside Gaza coordinated by the IDF
- IDF approved 84.8% of humanitarian coordination requests. 7.2% denied to prevent aid from reaching HAMAS and 8% denied for operational reasons
- April 5: Israel announces reopening of Erez Crossing
- April 9: Marking the end of Ramadan, largest aid drop over Gaza of 10 tonnes of aid occurred with 14 aircraft from nine countries including US, UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Egypt, Indonesia, UAE, and France launched from an airbase in Jordan

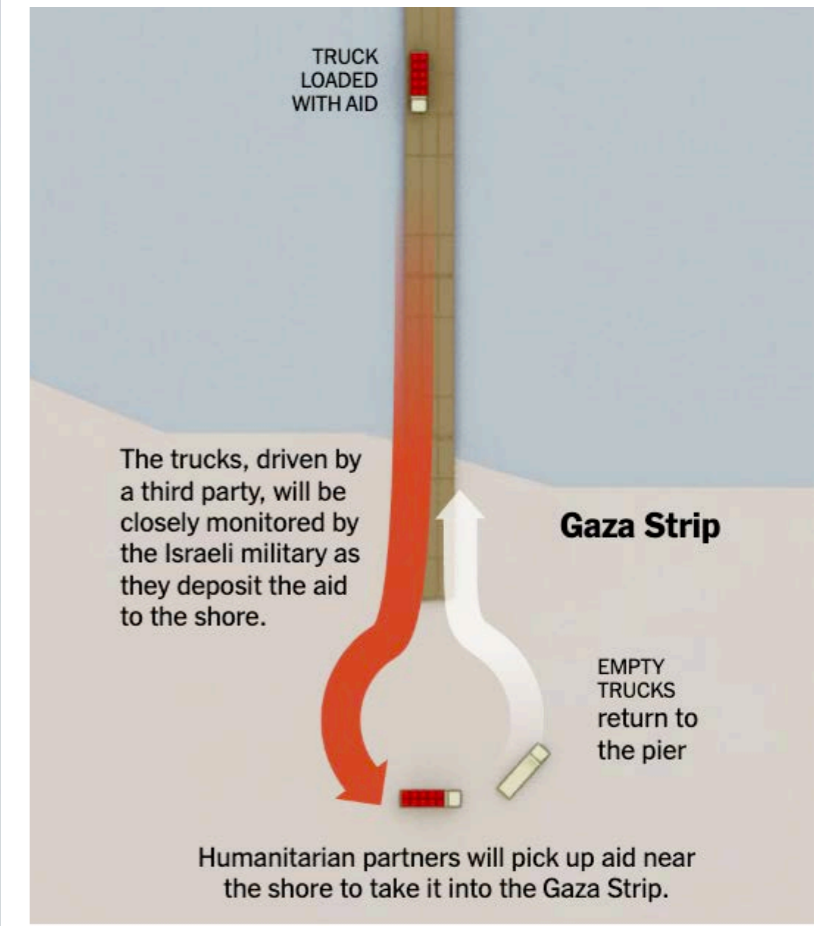
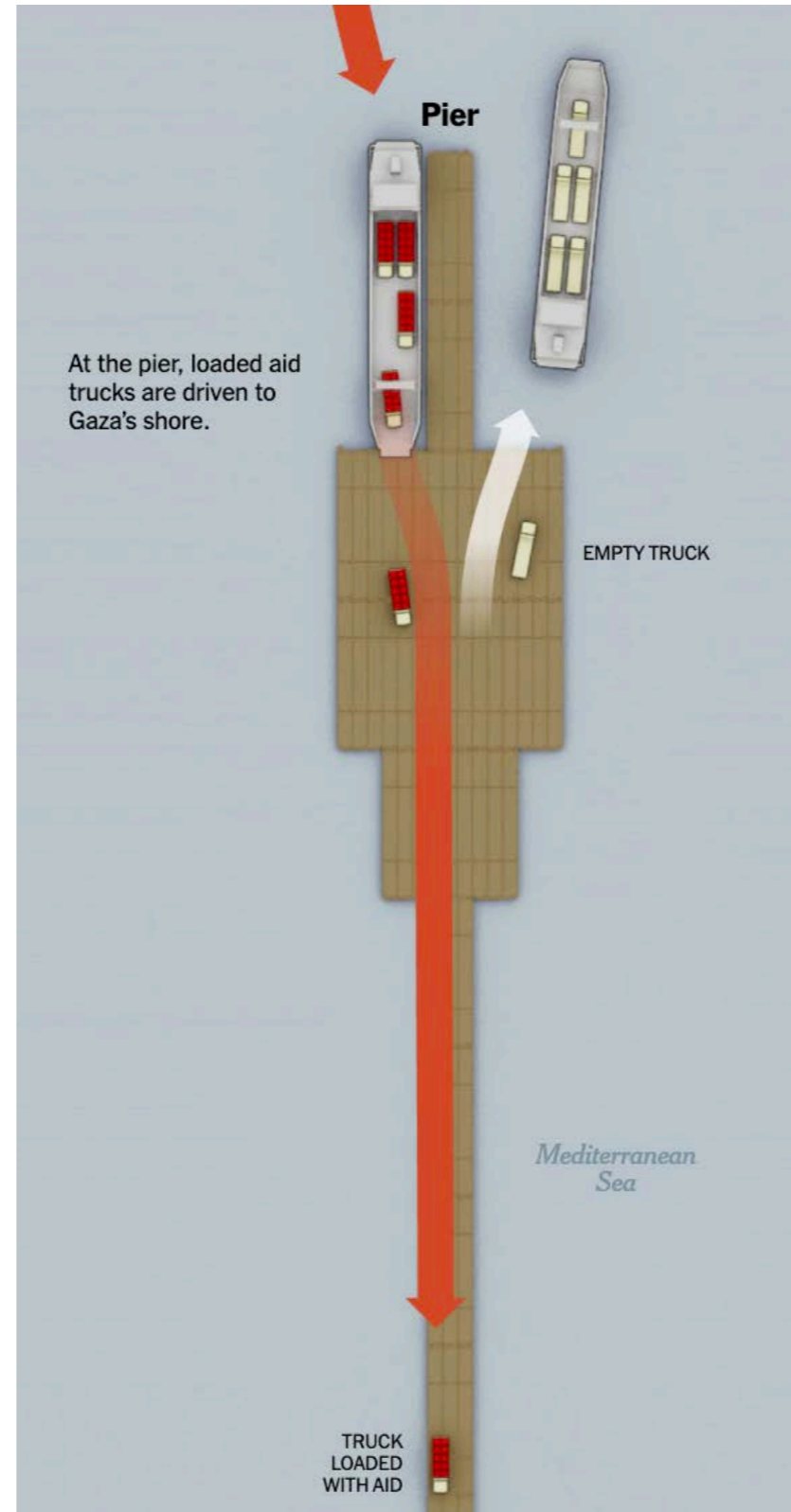
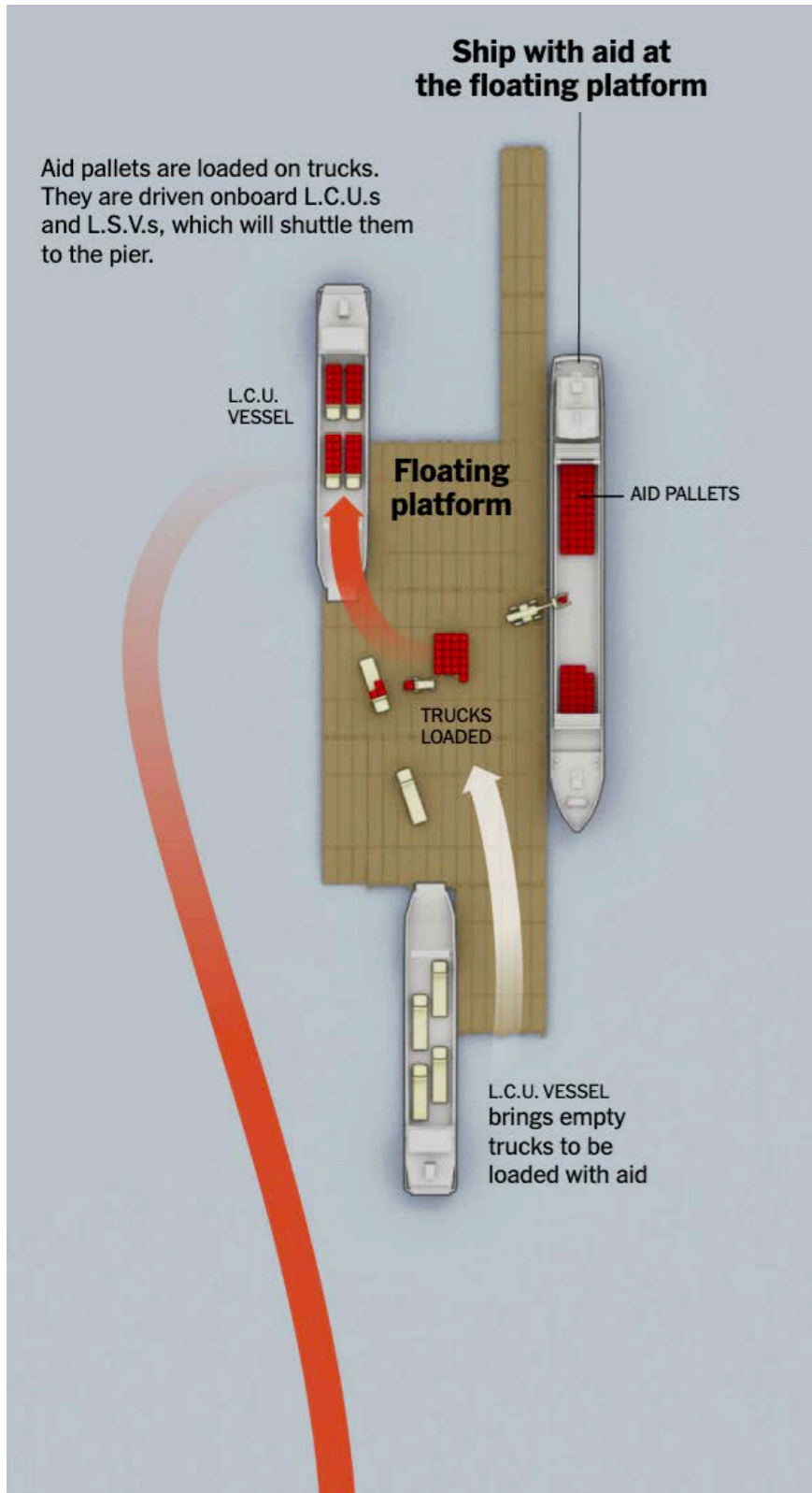


April 1: World Central Kitchen Strike

- 3 car convoy of the World Central Kitchen volunteer aid organization left a warehouse in central Gaza in the evening after unloading more than 100 tons of food brought by sea
- IDF accidentally targeted the three cars via missiles after believing the vehicles to be transporting terrorists
- IDF said a "number of armed gunmen" were in the vicinity of the convoy, but drone operators wrongly tracked cars carrying aid workers.
- 7 World Central Kitchen staff died
- IDF dismissed two senior officers over the incident and apologized to the organization and the families



US Pier Under Construction Off Gaza's Shore



US Pier Under Construction Off Gaza's Shore

- 1,000 US soldiers and 14 US ships are involved in building the pier
- Pier will allow for the transfer of up to 150 truckloads per day
- Aid will be inspected in Cyprus by Israel before traveling 250 miles to a floating platform
- Smaller vessels will transport the aid to a pier
- It will be anchored by the IDF to the shore in Northern Gaza so that no US personnel will step foot in Gaza



Image of US pier construction released by CENTCOM April 29 2024

Phase 6: Iran Attacks

April 8 - May 3

Israel Responds, and Rafah Looms



April 1: Israel Strikes IRGC Leaders in Damascus, Syria

Israeli Attack

- Israel strikes an Iranian building in Damascus, Syria killing 7 Iranian officials
- 3 senior Iranian military leaders are amongst the 7 casualties
- Among the dead: Gen. Mohammad Reza Zahedi (the top IRGC commander in Syria and Lebanon), his deputy, and several staff members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard force coordinating the actions of all Iranian allied and proxy Iranian forces operating against Israel. These were the highest-ranking Iranian officers to have been killed since the 2020 assassination by the US of Qassem Soleimani

Iran Plans a Response

- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on April 3 that the attack "will not remain without answer"
- Iran had not retaliated after similar strikes in the past, but by April 7, Iran signaled quietly to neighbors that it would respond with a major strike on Israel - the first ever direct attack on Israeli soil. Many of these signals were relayed to Israel.



Israel & US Prepare for Iran's Response

Israel Prepares for Iranian Retaliation

- IDF begins to plan a defensive and offensive response by coordinating with the US Central Command, as well as the British, French and Jordanian militaries
- IDF announced guidance beginning 11pm April 13 to cancel schools and all events with over 1,000 people for the next 24 hours, signaling precise intelligence
- Israel and Jordan close their airspace that night as well

US Prepares for Iranian Retaliation

- USS Carney, a destroyer heading back towards its home port in Florida, was sent back to the eastern Mediterranean - close enough to Israel so that it could intercept ballistic missiles with SM-3 interceptors
- Extra F-15E fighter jets were sent to the region to help shoot down drones
- F-16 fighter jets based in the region were prepared to join the operation
- USS Eisenhower, based off the coast of Yemen in the Red Sea, was moved closer to Israel so that it could launch fighter jets to intercept drones sent by the Houthis



April 13 & 14: Iran's First Direct Attack Against Israel

- Iran launched a first wave of an attack, reaching Israeli air space around 2am Sunday morning April 14
- The attack involved four waves of launches: two of explosive drones, then the cruise missiles and then the ballistic missiles. The wave sequence was **intended to do 2 things** (BESA Center):



- to deliver the different weapons so their arrival at their targets would be either simultaneous. Each weapon flies at a different speed (drones are the slowest, ballistic missiles the fastest).
- to inundate Israel's anti-rocket/missile defenses; compel it to use up its stores of ready-to-launch interceptor missiles to combat the first, less powerful drones (40-50 kilograms of explosive each) just prior to the arrival of the heavier explosive-payload-carrying missiles (they range from a few hundred to 1,200 kilograms each); and deprive Israel of sufficient time to reload the interceptor batteries before the latter arrived.
- To reach Israel from Iran, the drones and missiles flew over Iraq, then proceeding through Syria or Jordan
- Iran launched over 100 ballistic missiles, 170 drones and some 30 cruise missiles, with 60 tons of warheads and explosive materials, possibly the largest barrages of this kind in military history



6 Layers of Israeli Aerial Defense

■ Iron Dome

- Mobile unit that intercepts low-flying rockets and drones and when mounted on a ship is referred to as Sea Dome
- Thousands of successful intercepts since it became operational in 2011

■ **Patriot:** American-made system used to shoot down aircraft and drones

■ David's Sling

- Intercepts medium-altitude rockets and short range ballistic missiles, operational since 2017

■ Arrow-2 System

- Intercepts high-altitude missiles and is the longest serving Israeli aerial defense system
- Designed with the US, it intercepts the kind of ballistic missiles Iran launched on April 13

■ **Arrow-3 System:** Intercepts exo-atmospheric missiles

■ Fighter aircraft and attack helicopters

- Israel's Air Force is equipped with ~450 aircraft, most of which are the most advanced fighter jets made in the US, including the F-35 stealth aircraft, and F-15 and F-16 aircraft
- Israeli fighter jets and attack helicopters have the ability to shoot down missiles and drones
- Israeli F-35I stealth fighter jets have been known to shoot down drones and cruise missiles before

Iron Dome



Arrow-3



The Coalition Behind Operation Iron Shield

- The March 23rd The Economist cover suggested Israel was isolated



The Coalition Behind Operation Iron Shield



■ Preparing Operation Iron Shield

- April 9: IDF Chief of Staff Halevi called US CENTCOM Commander Gen. Kurilla and on April 11 Gen. Kurilla arrived for joint preparations
- Coalition built over years (but never battle tested) led by the **US**, with **Great Britain**, **France**, and quietly - the **Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan** and the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**
- Iran gave 72 hours notice to neighbors and countries in the region and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates passed on intelligence about Iran's plans to attack Israel
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan agreed to let US, Israel and other countries' warplanes to use its airspace

■ Coalition Responds

- Jordan had already deployed Patriot aerial defense systems from the US in late 2023
- **Missiles were tracked by US radars in Qatar** that sent information to Israel's missile defense units and to fighter jets from several countries over Jordan
- **Drones were shot down by Israeli, US, Jordanian, British, and French warplanes**
- Jordan's Air Force intercepted dozens of Iranian drones that violated its airspace and were heading to Israel
- US aircraft shot down 80 drones while two guided-missile destroyers intercepted six ballistic missiles, and a US Patriot system near Erbil, Iraq, intercepted one ballistic missile

WSJ: "No one had ever tried to intercept so many ballistic missiles at once before."

Results of the Iranian Attack

Result of the Attack

- Sirens sounded in Southern Israel, West Bank, Jerusalem, and Northern Israel
- 99% of the aerial attack was intercepted even though at one point over 100 ballistic missiles were in the air
- Israel's Arrow system intercepted most of the ballistic missiles
- Five Iranian missiles did make it through the aerial defenses and caused minor damage at the Nevatim Israeli Air Force Base, including to a C-130 transport aircraft and empty storage facilities.
- 10 year old Muslim Israeli girl was injured by falling shrapnel



Shrapnel from an Iranian missile found near the Dead Sea in Israel

Cost of Defending Israel

- IDF Brig. Gen. (Res.) Reem Aminoach, former financial advisor to the IDF Chief of Staff, estimated that **the cost of the aerial defense operation against the Iranian attack amounted to more than a billion dollars**

Over \$30,000 per Iron Dome interception, \$3.5 million per Arrow interception, \$1 million per David's Sling interceptor, and costs for fighter jets added up to a magnitude of over one billion dollars



April 19: Israel Responds

Israeli Attack

- Israel sent small attack drones, known as quadcopters, to confuse Iranian air defenses
- Instead of sending fighter jets into Iranian airspace, Israel fired a small number of missiles from aircraft positioned several hundred miles west of Iran on April 19 and the weapon included technology that enabled it to evade Iran's radar defenses
- One missile hit an anti-aircraft battery in a strategically important part of central Iran, while another exploded in midair
- The Israeli Air Force intentionally destroyed the second missile once it became clear that the first had reached its target, to avoid causing too much damage
- The battery struck was a radar of an S-300 anti-aircraft system at the Iranian military's Eighth Shekari Air Base in Isfahan

Meaning of the Attack

- Israel abandoned plans for a much more extensive counterstrike on Iran after concerted diplomatic pressure from the United States and other foreign allies
- The attack showed Iran the breadth and sophistication of Israel's military arsenal
- By attacking a part of central Iran that houses several major nuclear facilities, including an uranium enrichment site at Natanz, Israel hinted that it could have also reached those facilities if it had tried

April 29: reports Israel allegedly assassinated an IRGC operative involved in planning attacks against Jews in Europe



IDF Removes Nearly All Soldiers from Gaza by mid-April

April 2024



By mid-April 2024, the IDF had only one brigade in Gaza (~4,000 troops)

Onwards Towards Rafah

- April 24: IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi and Israeli Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) Director Ronen Bar visit Cairo to meet Egyptian intelligence chief Abbas Kamel and Egyptian Chief of Staff Osama Oskar to discuss a Rafah operation.
- April 24: IDF announces it's preparing to deploy two reserve brigades to central Gaza, freeing up the brigade in central Gaza for a possible operation in Rafah. The two brigades were to deploy along the east-west humanitarian corridor dividing Gaza and to secure the pier being built by the US.
- April 24: Israel confirms purchase of 40,000 large 12-person tents for Palestinians relocated from Rafah.

Before and after: images from IDF of expanded humanitarian zone in Gaza as of April 28 2024



Onwards Towards Rafah



April 23 2024 satellite imagery of
new tent camps for displaced
Palestinians in Rafah

- On May 3, the Wall Street Journal reported that: **“Israel has given Hamas a week to agree to a cease-fire deal or it will go ahead with its military operation in Rafah, Egyptian officials briefed on the matter said Friday”**

More American Support Arrives to the Region



US Visits to Region

- April 11: General Kurilla
- May 1: Secretary Blinken

May 1, Secretary Blinken: **"We are determined to get a ceasefire that brings the hostages home and to get it now, and the only reason that that wouldn't be achieved is because of Hamas.** There is a proposal on the table, and as we've said, no delays, no excuses.

US Announcements

- April 12: US Dept. of Treasury sanctions HAMAS Spokesperson Abu Ubaida as well as members of HAMAS' UAV unit.
- **April 11, 2024: After votes in the House and the Senate, President Biden signs into law \$26 billion in assistance to Israel and humanitarian relief in Gaza**
- May 2: US Dept. of Treasury sanctions 5 persons and 2 entities in Lebanon and the UAE for their involvement in financing Hezbollah and sanctions evasions by Hezbollah financial advisor Hassan Moukalled.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- April 8: US Forces struck a Houthi air defense system with 2 missiles ready to launch, a Houthi ground control station, and 1 UAS launched by the Houthis over the Red Sea. **Houthis fired an anti-ship ballistic missile against a cargo ship in the Gulf of Aden without injuries or damage.**
- April 9: **US Forces destroyed an incoming anti-ship ballistic missile launched by Houthis at a US merchant vessel escorted by YS warships.**
- April 10: US Forces destroyed 2 Houthi UAVs launched over the Gulf of Aden and one UAV launched over the Red Sea without injury or damage. In addition, **US Forces destroyed 8 UAVs in Houthi controlled areas in Yemen** in self defense.
- April 11: US Forces destroyed an anti-ship ballistic missile launched by Houthis over the Red Sea.
- April 14: Houthis launched one anti-ship ballistic missile toward the Gulf of Aden with no injury or damage. **US Forces destroyed 4 Houthi UAVs launched from Yemen.**
- April 16: **US Forces destroyed 2 Houthi UAVs**
- April 24: **US Forces destroyed one Houthi anti-ship ballistic missile launched from Yemen toward the Gulf of Aden targeting a US vessel.** US Forces also destroyed 4 airborne Houthi UAVs over Yemen.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- April 25: Houthis launched **one anti-ship ballistic missile into the Gulf of Aden** with no injury or damage. US Forces destroyed one Houthi USV and one Houthi UAV in Yemen.
- April 26: **Houthis launched 3 anti-ship ballistic missiles** into the Red Sea with minor damage of a UK vessel.
- April 28: US Forces destroyed **5 Houthi UAVs** over the Red Sea.
- April 29: Houthis launched 3 anti-ship ballistic missiles and 3 UAVs into the Red Sea towards a civilian vessel with no injuries. US Forces destroyed one Houthi UAV launched towards US vessels in the Red Sea.
- April 30: US Forces **destroyed a Houthi USV** in Yemen in self defense.
- May 2: US Forces **destroyed 3 Houthi UAS** in Yemen in self defense.



US Military Leads Airdrops Over North Gaza

- April 9: USAF dropped 50,600 meal equivalents into Northern Gaza.
- April 10: USAF dropped 50,680 meal equivalents into Northern Gaza.
- April 10: USAF dropped 6,000 pounds of food into Northern Gaza.
- April 16: USAF dropped 25,300 meal equivalents into Northern Gaza.
- April 18: USAF dropped 50,600 meal equivalents into Northern Gaza.
- April 21: USAF dropped 50,688 meal equivalents into Northern Gaza.
- April 23: USAF and RJAF dropped 30,016 Meals Ready to Eat and 6,000 pounds of Jordanian food supplies into Northern Gaza.
- April 25: USAF dropped over 25,000 Meals Ready to Eat into Northern Gaza.
- April 28: USAF and RJAF dropped 25,000 Meals Ready to Eat and 13,080 meal equivalents of Jordanian food supplies into Northern Gaza.
- April 30: USAF and RJAF dropped 25,000 Meals Ready to Eat and 13,000 meal equivalents of Jordanian food supplies into Northern Gaza.

US State Dept. on May 3: "**HAMAS managed to seize a major shipment of humanitarian aid** that was delivered to Gaza."

By the 210th day of the war, Israel inspected **over 27,330 trucks of humanitarian aid for Gaza, carrying >520,000 tons** of aid



Israel-HAMAS War:
Moving Forward



210 Days of War, By the Numbers

Gaza (as reported by HAMAS):

- Over 1.7M Gazans displaced, evacuated to Southern Gaza from Northern Gaza
- HAMAS Ministry of Health reports over 34,000 killed Gazans. *They do not differentiate between terrorists and civilians. Western analyses have proved that the data on Gazans killed since October 7 is completely unreliable.*
- **10,000** missiles, rockets, and mortars fired from Gaza into Israel

HAMAS (as reported by IDF):

- HAMAS top leadership still alive, but many HAMAS terrorists killed, including:
 - 8 members of HAMAS political leadership
 - 2 (of 5) HAMAS Brigade Commanders
 - 24 HAMAS Battalion Commanders or similar rank
 - >80 HAMAS Company Commanders
 - **>14,000 HAMAS fighters killed** - approximately 40% of their total force

Lebanon & Yemen

- >300 terrorists in Lebanon killed by IDF; 4,500 Hezbollah positions struck by IDF
- Israeli Defense Minister: Half of Hezbollah's commanders in southern Lebanon were killed by the IDF
- **>4,000 missiles**, rockets, and mortars fired from Lebanon into Israel
- 66 Houthi attacks against Israel, 161 Houthi naval attacks against international shipping
- 1,602 air raid sirens alerted in Northern Israel since October 7



210 Days of War, By the Numbers

IDF (Data from INSS):

- 608 IDF soldiers and local security officers killed and 3,181 wounded since October 7
- ~36,000 targets struck in Gaza by IDF and IAF, including >3,400 HAMAS sites discovered during the war
- IDF made 100,000 phone calls, dropped 9.3M leaflets, sent 15.5M text messages, and made 17M recorded calls to Palestinians in Gaza with evacuation warnings
- IDF soldiers **destroyed over 500** of the over 1,500 terror tunnel shafts found in Gaza

Israel:

- 1,548 Israeli casualties, including over **40** babies murdered, over **15,030** injured
- **>200,000 Israelis displaced**
- Over 18,000 rockets fired at Israel (**1,300+** rockets misfired and fell short into Gaza)
- 760,000 Israelis were unable to work (18% of the workforce) due to military service, displacement from home or single parents without childcare
- Reduction of >90% of rocket and missile fire at Israel
- 132 hostages in Gaza, including 2 children and 19 women, at least 36 deceased

1 in 5 of the hundreds of rockets fired at Israel by Hezbollah fell inside Lebanon



“Israel Implemented More Measures to Prevent Civilian Casualties Than Any Other Nation in History”

The Chair of the Modern War Institute at West Point Writes:



- Israel has taken more measures to avoid needless civilian harm than virtually any other nation that's fought an urban war.
- Israel has taken precautionary measures even the United States did not do during its recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Israel provided days and then weeks of warnings, as well as time for civilians to evacuate multiple cities in northern Gaza before starting the main air-ground attack of urban areas. **No military has ever implemented any of these practices in war before.**
- Another historical first in war measures to prevent civilian casualties was Israel's distribution of IDF military maps and graphics to assist civilians with evacuations and alerting them to where the IDF will be operating. **No military in history has ever done this.**
- No military in modern history has faced over 30,000 urban defenders in more than seven cities using human shields and hiding in hundreds of miles of underground networks purposely built under civilian sites, while holding hundreds of hostages.

“Israel has implemented more measures to prevent civilian casualties than any other military in history.”



HAMAS Continues Calls for Another October 7 Massacre

October 24, 2023



HAMAS leader Ghazi Hamad said on Lebanese TV that **HAMAS will repeat the October 7 Massacre time and again** until Israel is annihilated.

December 5, 2023



HAMAS leader Sami Abu Zuhri **called for attacks against the US and the UK** on Al-Aqsa TV.

January 9, 2024



HAMAS leader Ismail Haniyeh said on Al-Jazeera: **"we should hold on to the victory that took place on October 7 and build upon it."**

January 30, 2024



HAMAS official Ali Baraka **continued the call to repeat October 7** on Al-Manar TV.



HAMAS Leader Khaled Mashal Rejects 2 State Solution

January 18, 2024



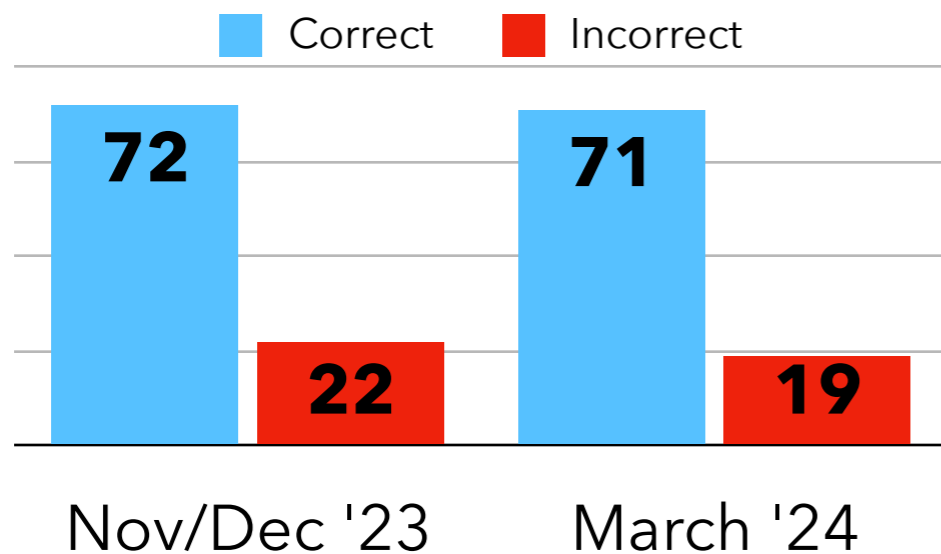
In an interview with a Kuwaiti podcaster, Khaled Mashal said: **“The October 7 war has opened a new horizon** for a vision of a political settlement. Here, they pull out their old 'merchandise' of the two-state solution. I would like to say two things about the two-state solution. First, **we have nothing to do with the two-state solution. We reject this notion,** because it means you would get a promise for a [Palestinian] state, yet **you are required to recognize the legitimacy of the other state, which is the Zionist entity. This is unacceptable.”**

175 days of war and Palestinian Authority officials still refuse to condemn the October 7 massacre.



Even After Oct. 7, Palestinians Support the Oct. 7 Massacre

In your view, given what happened after it, was HAMAS decision to launch its offensive against Israel on October 7 a correct or incorrect one?

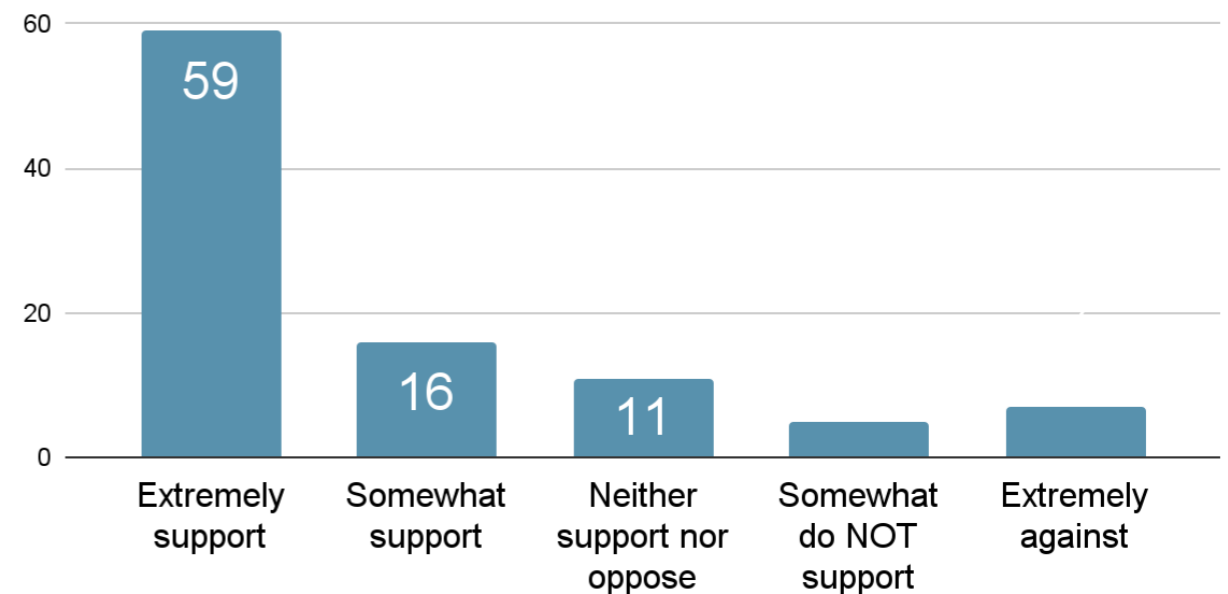


Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research Nov. 22 - Dec. 2 '23 and March 5-10 '24. Sample size 1,200 adults or more interviewed face-to-face in over 100 randomly selected locations. Margin of error +/-3%

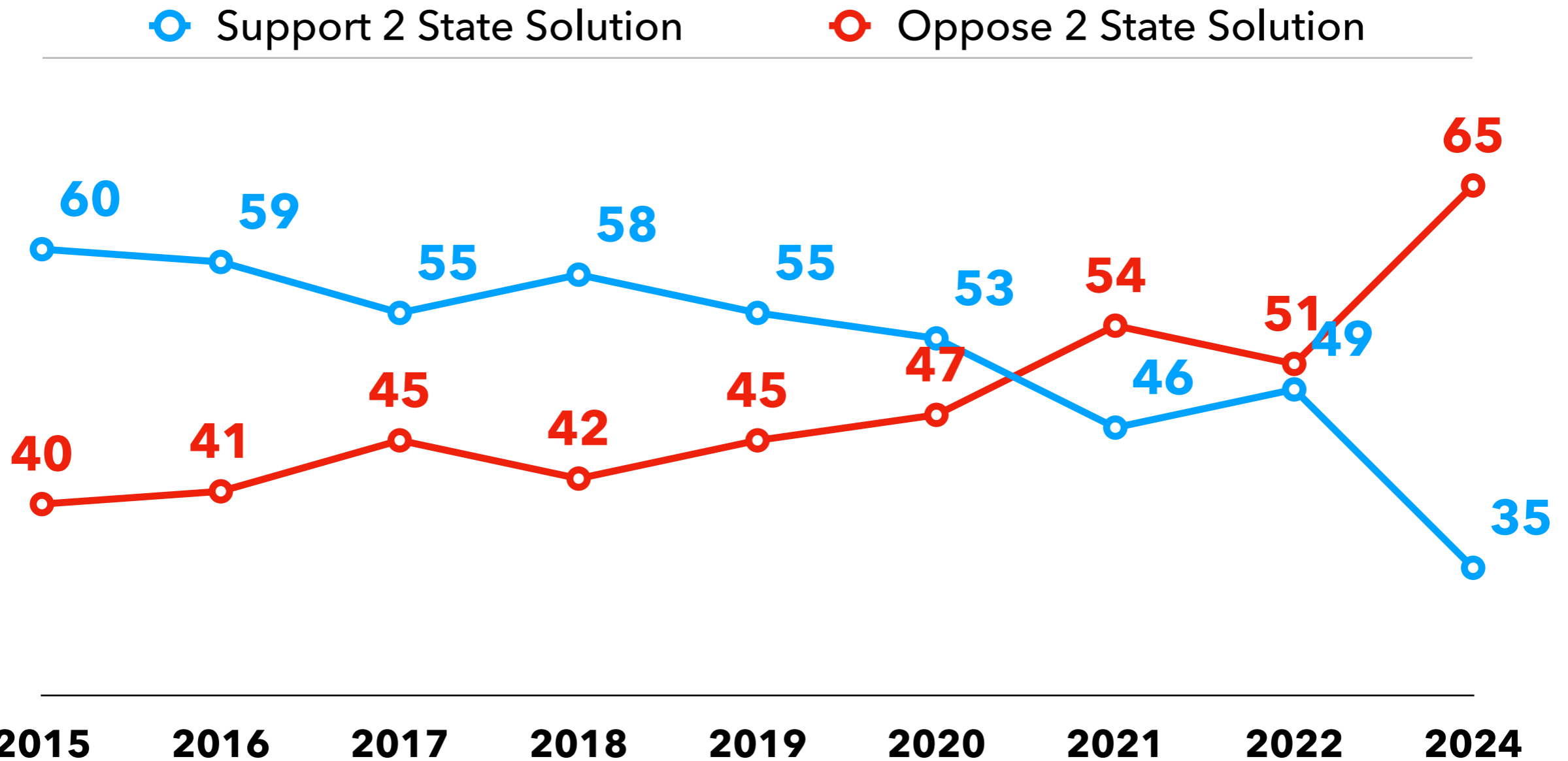
75% of Palestinians support the October 7 Massacre

Arab World for Research & Development conducted Palestinian public opinion research in the West Bank and Gaza between October 31 and November 7 (the 4th week of war).

How much do you support the military operation carried out by the Palestinian resistance led by HAMAS on October 7th?



Israeli Jewish Public Opinion Collected March 7-10, 2024: Low Support for the 2 State Solution



Institute for National Security Studies (Israel) Research carried out between March 7-10 2024 by the Rafi Smith Institute, during which 500 men and women were interviewed online, constituting a representative sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel aged 18 and over. The maximum margin of error for the sample is 4% with a 95% confidence level.

Margin of error +/-3%



The Cost to Israel's Economy

- October 24, 2023: S&P Global Ratings revises Israel outlook to negative (from stable), reaffirms AA-/A-1+ ratings February 10: US rating's agency Moody's downgraded Israel's credit rating from A1 to A2 and lowered its outlook for Israel's debt to "negative"
- January 28 2024: S&P Global Ratings suggested Israel's credit rating could be cut if war expands
- April 15, 2024 report from Israel's Finance Ministry suggests:
 - Israel raised \$43 billion in debt in 2023, half out after October 7 2023 (compared to approximately \$16.7 billion in 2022)
 - Total debt amounted to 62.1% of GDP (up from 60.5% in 2022) and is expected to climb to 67% in 2024
 - **Government expenditures for the years 2023-2024 increased by ~\$26.6 billion USD billion due to the costs of the war**



Will Terror Spread to the US?

- FBI Director Wray: "Here in the U.S., we cannot and do not discount the possibility that Hamas or other foreign terrorist organizations could exploit the conflict to call on their supporters to **conduct attacks on our own soil.**"
- According to a US intelligence bulletin, Al-Qaeda affiliates and Hezbollah are calling on supporters to target the U.S. and Israeli interests in response to the Israel-HAMAS war and President Biden's trip to the region.
- Customs and Border protection memo suggested that HAMAS or Hezbollah fighters could potentially enter the US via the southern border.

January 10, 2024 POLITICO: "U.S. officials assess that there's a **rising risk Lebanese Hezbollah militants will strike Americans** in the Middle East – and even potentially hit inside the United States"



Will Terror Spread Internationally?

- Nov. 8: Israel's spy agency Mossad worked with Brazilian security services and other international agencies to **foil an attack in Brazil planned by the Iran-backed terror group Hezbollah**. Brazilian forces conducted arrests and search and seizure warrants.
- Dec. 10: two Iranians are detained in Cyprus with support from Israel's Mossad for allegedly **planning an attack on Israelis in Cyprus**
- Dec. 11: a suspect in Austria was **arrested after announcing his intention to attack a synagogue**. They had instructions for making bombs and images of Jewish and Israeli targets on their cellphones.
- Dec. 14: **Senior Hamas terrorists in Denmark and Germany were arrested** on suspicion of plotting to carry out an act of terror killing civilians in Europe, with support from Israel's Mossad.
- Jan. 31: **'Live device' detonated by police outside the Israeli embassy** in Stockholm, Sweden (local reports suggested it was a hand grenade)
- Feb. 8: An El Al flight in Europe underwent an emergency landing after **a passenger was detained by airmarshalls while trying to infiltrate the cockpit**.
- March 11: **3 Palestinians in Italy were arrested** for planning to carry out terror attacks, including a suicide attack



Will Hate Violence Spread in the US?

- Oct 7 - Nov 20: the Anti-Defamation League tracked 832 anti-Jewish acts in the United States. **Although Jewish-Americans are 2.4% of the U.S. population, they are the targets of more than half of all reported religion-based hate crimes.**
- **69 year-old Jewish man was killed** during a clash in Los Angeles between pro-Israel and anti-Israel protesters.
- **Palestinian-American boy aged 6 stabbed to death** in Chicago, suspected killer is the landlord, who is charged with murder and a hate crime.
- A **28 year old Jewish dentist in San Diego was shot to death** by a Middle Eastern man
- A bomb threat was made on a Jewish school in Toronto while a surge of antisemitism spread through Europe since October 7, including the stabbing of a woman in France and antisemitic incidents in France, Italy, Austria, the UK, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Greece, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, Poland, and the Netherlands.
- A 32 year old Jewish woman in Paris was allegedly **the victim of kidnapping and rape to "avenge Palestine"**

LA County's District Attorney:

On October 25, 2023 at approximately 5:20 in the morning, Garcia attempted to enter the victim's home by kicking in the door while shouting antisemitic slurs and threatening to, "kill Jews!"



April 2024: US College Campuses Outburst in Violence



Map of US colleges where anti-Israel protesters have been arrested



Will Abraham Accords Support Remain? It Has So Far

- United Arab Emirates on Oct 8: “The Ministry stressed that attacks by Hamas against Israeli towns and villages near the Gaza strip, including the firing of thousands of rockets at population centers, are a serious and grave escalation. **The Ministry is appalled by reports that Israeli civilians have been abducted** as hostages from their homes. ”
- United Arab Emirates Minister at UN Oct 24: “We reiterate that **the attacks launched by Hamas on October 7 are barbaric and heinous**. We demand that Hamas release hostages immediately and unconditionally to stop the bloodshed and spare all civilians from further suffering.”
- United Arab Emirates Oct. 30: “From the United Arab Emirates perspective, **the Abraham Accords are there to stay**,” said Dr Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi, Chairman of the Defense, Interior and Foreign Affairs Committee of the UAE Federal National Council
- Kingdom of Bahrain Nov. 17: Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and PM said: “**I condemn Hamas unequivocally**. I stand on the side of civilians and innocents, and not on the side of political posturing. **The 7 October attacks were barbaric and horrific.**”
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Jan. 16: Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan said that **Saudi Arabia would “certainly” be interested in a normalization** deal with Israel.

Protests in support of the Palestinians in Arab states generally, and Abraham Accords countries specifically, were fewer and much smaller than pro-Palestinian protests in Europe and America.



And Many More Questions Remain

- Where does the IDF go after clearing Southern Gaza of HAMAS? Israel is changing its strategy from regular warfare to a counter-guerilla offensive. How long will this last?
- 133 hostages remain in captivity in Gaza, including women and children. At least 33 are dead and 6 are also American citizens. What is the future of these hostages?
- Will the humanitarian situation in Gaza improve, especially as HAMAS continues to steal and hoard aid for its own use?
- Who will rule Gaza? Reports indicate HAMAS is already returning to power in Northern Gaza. It's possible soldiers from Arab countries will serve as peacekeepers.
- What will happen on the Israel-Lebanon border?
- How will the world protect the 10-15% of global trade that passes through the Red Sea from attacks from the Houthis in Yemen?
- Will US continue to engage Iran-backed militias in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen?





Israel-Hamas War

October 7, 2024 - May 3, 2024

210 Day Update

